

# THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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## Ecclesiastical Affairs.

## THE ORACLE OF SAN REMO.

THE Church Establishment of this country is an institution which is "fearfully and wonderfully made." Its claims, its assumptions, its desires, its hopes, its ways are peculiar to itself—so singular, so unlike what one would have anticipated, such an inversion of the ways of ordinary creatures, that one is perplexed to determine whether its *Acta Apostolorum* are to be read as sacred history, or as burlesque. Indeed, the official "presentment" of the National Church in what our Scottish friends are fond of calling "South Britain," is one of the driest, huskiest, most gritty, most matter-of-fact, most unspiritual methods of expressing whatever truth there is which has in it a touch of humanity; so much so that we are always at a loss, when we meet with it, whether to regard it as a joke, or to bow in its presence with profoundest reverence. Dr. Tait, for example, seen altogether apart from his hierarchical position and pretensions, challenges and receives our highest respect—it is only what comes to us with authority from beneath his archiepiscopal vestments, and has upon it the imprimatur of "A. C. Cantuar," that tickles our sense of the ludicrous, and tempts the suspicion that "His Grace" is less worthy of serious attention than was the simple and devout Christian before the Crown invested him with lordship.

In another column the reader will find a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Bishop of London, referring to those measures of Church reform which His Grace deems it expedient to bring under the notice of Parliament next Session. It is dated, "San Remo, Italy, December 27, 1870." We hardly know how best and most truthfully to characterize this epistle. As a pure letter of business from one prelate to another, we should have felt little inclination to comment upon it, had it not somewhat obtrusively affected an air of authority which does not properly belong to it. "I am in communication with the Archbishop of York," writes His Grace of Canterbury to "the right reverend and right honourable the Lord Bishop of London," "and hope that the provinces may be able to act in concert with reference to such measures as are desirable; and

*I now take the constitutional step of publicly addressing you as Dean of the Southern Province,* in order that the attention of our own clergy and laity may be directed to what we deem desirable." There is an official pomp about the words which we have placed in italics which seems intended to suggest to the British public something more than it actually expresses. That the act of the Archbishop in writing to the Dean of the Southern Province, and through him to inform the clerical and lay members of the Church of England what he and the Archbishop of York consider the most fitting measures of ecclesiastical reform to be submitted to Parliament for legislation next Session, is a "constitutional step," in the sense of not being contrary to the letter or spirit of the Constitution, will not, we suppose, be denied by anybody—but in this sense the right reverend prelate might as truly have described his wiping his shoes upon the archiepiscopal doormat at a "constitutional step." If, on the other hand, he meant to suggest that the duty he has seen fit to discharge for the purpose of gathering up and applying the political power and influence of the State Church upon the Legislature, was imposed upon him by the Constitution, and could not have been duly performed in any other way, it strikes us that Dr. Tait has very cleverly "magnified his office," but in a not strictly legitimate manner.

We take exception to all such turns of phrase and modes of expression in official communications, as insinuate, whether advisedly or not, a wider stretch of meaning than a reference to fact can justify. The Archbishop of Canterbury's letter is pervaded from beginning to end by a tone of ecclesiastical authority over the religious interests of the country, which, however closely in harmony it may be with the assumptions of a National Church, is ridiculously out of place in a missive addressed to a Church comprising less than one half of the nation. Dr. Tait knows as well as we do that the Church of England is no otherwise the Church of more than about half the people of England than by a legal fiction. But he writes in the vein of a man who takes for granted that legal fiction is as good as fact. Every suggestion, every implied reason, every turn of utterance, every sentiment of the letter, savours of a supremacy which no one could infer, from anything he has written, to be either questionable or questioned. The style admirably suits the position. The sonorous pretentiousness of the one aptly represents the hollow and fictitious character of the other. That "A. C. Cantuar" is aware of the least indisposition on the part of the Legislature to carry out the views of the heads of the Church, not a line that he has written to his brother "London" could be made to imply. That there are any subjects of the State which are not also members of the Church, his Grace utterly ignores. There is a sublime indifference in it to the conditions of the case as it stands. One sees a certain propriety in its having been written, not in England, but in a foreign land. There is something Italian in its all-pervasive prelatry.

Whether the Archbishop of Canterbury has been moved to his present fit of reforming zeal by the prospect of a Parliamentary discussion touching the disestablishment of the Church of England, it is not, of course, for us to conjecture. If he has, his offers of Church Reform are hardly

adequate to the occasion. In fact, his letter is another illustration of the Constantinopolitan street-cry, "In the name of the Prophet—figs!" The Lectionary Bill is the first measure which the Archbishop advocates. He assumes that it cannot be allowed by Her Majesty's Government to fall to the ground once more, because the failure of the Bill will disturb "important branches of industry"—or, in plainer words, will leave on the hands of the University and Queen's Printers a large stock of Prayer Books in which the proposed, but not yet legalised, Table of Lessons has been prematurely inserted. We cannot, however, stay to particularise all his lordship's items of Church Reform. We refer our readers who may be curious on this head to the document itself.

What strikes us as most noteworthy in this list of suggested measures is their utter inadequacy to the necessities of the Church Establishment in the present day. Everyone knows that it is convulsed by internal dissensions. Every one is satisfied that it will become more desperately so in proportion as thought becomes more active, and inquiry more searching, and conscience more energetic. Every one is prepared to find that where several discordant schools of theology are dominated by the same legal standard of doctrine and discipline, each will denounce the others as unfaithful, and intense conflicts within will exhaust the strength needed to cope with unfriendly elements without. And yet here is the foremost ecclesiastic of the Church of England, expressing his desire to set Parliament pottering over a long succession of small repairs, as if he were ignorant, or could keep the Legislature ignorant, of the fact, that the very foundations of the edifice are being undermined by the current of events, and that the State Church threatens to fall by its own weight. It is truly a marvellous phenomenon—to be met with no where, we fancy, but in England's Erastianised Church. It has all the air of a jest about it—and yet we are bound to regard it as a task performed in fatuous earnest. How amusingly the letter from San Remo will read ten years hence!

## THE BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW ON THE CHURCH IN WALES.

THE current number of the *British Quarterly Review* contains an admirable paper on the Established Church in Wales, which we cannot allow to pass amongst the necessarily brief criticisms which are usually given to the articles contained in our periodical literature. Searching, vigorous, and thorough, it is equally calculated to arrest attention and to stimulate action. As an exposure of the history and condition of that portion of the Establishment it has not been rivalled.

The assault upon the principle and system of the Established Churches of this country is not likely to be made without a special reference to their conspicuous failure amongst the Welsh people. The position of the Establishment in Ireland is exactly paralleled by its position in Wales, and, as the writer of this article naturally remarks, there was, in the Act for the Disestablishment and Disendowment of the Irish Church a distinct legislative recognition of certain general principles which are susceptible of far wider application than to the particular case they were invoked to sustain. But whether that principle should be separately applied to Wales, is another question. The judgment, certainly, of those who are most experienced in the promotion of measures of religious equality, has been, and is, that it should not, but that it should form part, as it necessarily must, of a

larger and wider question. It is true, however, as the writer remarks, that when the Irish Establishment was abolished, men's minds turned "almost instinctively to the sister institution in Wales." This led to Mr. Watkin Williams's motion, which we still hold to have been hasty and ill-considered, but, as is very truly said, it obliged those who opposed the disestablishment of the Welsh Church to show their hand—to which we would add, yet not all of it, nor for a very long time. The writer reviews the arguments used by Mr. Gladstone upon the occasion of that motion, and, in a passage of considerable power, exposes the inaccuracy and weakness of one which will, no doubt, be made by politicians to do duty again and again in the forthcoming Parliamentary agitation. For this reason we quote the entire passage:—

It may be said, indeed, that the Prime Minister made no attempt to defend the Welsh Church. He abandoned it to the strongest condemnation pronounced upon it by its adversaries, for the "gross neglect, corruption, nepotism, plunder," to use his own words, by which it has been marked; and only tried to account for these evils by laying them all to the charge of "Anglicising prelates." He admitted that, even granting what Churchmen claimed, namely, about one-fourth of the population as belonging to the Establishment,—"a claim, let us say in passing, which in the face of notorious facts is simply preposterous"—"the disproportion is very remarkable in the case of a Church purporting to be the Church of the nation." He admitted, moreover, as a circumstance seriously militating against the Welsh Church, that "so large a proportion of her members belong to the upper classes of the community, the classes who are most able to provide themselves with the ministrations of religion, and therefore, in whose special and peculiar interest it is most difficult to make any effectual appeal for public resources and support." But while acknowledging all this, he resists the proposal for its disestablishment. On what grounds? First, on this ground—that there is no hostility in Wales to the Church Establishment, and that its existence does not, as in Ireland, produce alienation or bitterness of feeling between different classes of the community. But this argument, if it were well founded in fact, which unhappily it is as far as possible from being, does not address itself in the least to the reason or justice of the case. Even if the Welsh people were so devoid of spirit and self-respect as to feel it no grievance to have a costly Church Establishment, which exists almost exclusively for the benefit of the rich, saddled upon their necks, surely that is no proof that it is right to perpetuate the privileges of a body, whose history for generations has been marked by "gross neglect, corruption, and nepotism," and which, purporting to be the Church of a nation, does not pretend, even according to the claims of its most audacious advocates, to number among its adherents more than one-fourth of the nation. But Mr. Gladstone is wholly misinformed as to the fact. Because the Nonconformists of Wales are an eminently peaceable, loyal, and orderly people, and do not proclaim their grievances with clamour and menace, it is imagined that they do not feel the gross injustice and indignity of the position they occupy. They do feel it deeply, and they are made to feel it, by events continually occurring in their social and political life, which all spring from this one root of bitterness. We need only refer to illustrations of what we mean to the circumstances which attended and followed the last general election.

Something like this has since been said by Mr. Bruce in respect to the Scotch Church. It is invitation not merely to action, but to "alienation." Apart from this, it is not an argument that can remain in the mind of a statesman disposed to do justice. Must every good law wait until a dangerous discontent at legal injustice shall be manifested? What a principle of sound legislation and statesmanship!

The writer proceeds to review the history of the Welsh Church. Some of the facts of this review will be familiar to the students of ecclesiastical history, but not all of them; while familiar materials are dealt with with great freshness. Very successfully the writer brings out the fact that, at no period, has the Establishment in Wales fulfilled its proper function as the religious instructor of the Welsh people. Churchmen have, as he says, hinted at some remote golden age, but such an age never existed. It has always been bad, always corrupt, always inefficient, and worst, as Lord Macaulay has remarked of the Church in England, when it had the lead to itself, and possessed unbounded power and unlimited sway. This is in harmony with all natural, as well as moral, laws. What can ever come of a bad principle and system unresisted? The historic review of the whole of this subject in this paper is very masterly, and is enough to excite a moral indignation at the corrupt thing that pretended to be a Christian institution, which should, even now, be sufficient to sweep it from the face of the land.

One of the worst of the ecclesiastical abuses of Wales, was the appointment of English clergymen to parishes in which the English language was not spoken. As a rule these gentlemen took no trouble to speak the native tongue of the people; they were satisfied, as the Irish clergy were, to "do baptism," when it was submitted to, and take their dues. Occasionally, however, some more enterprising or conscientious men, made trial of the remarkable lan-

guage which they found spoken around them. The writer gives, from the speech of a Welsh clergyman, delivered some twenty years ago, some ludicrous illustrations of the result,—of which we give a few specimens:—

Bishop Burgess, in pronouncing the blessing in Welsh, used to say, "The peace of God, which passeth all vengeance."

A clergyman of the name of Lewis preached at Chapel Colman, and while speaking of man's depravity, said, "Every man is exceedingly tall by nature." He meant to say blind. The little men of the congregation looked at each other with great astonishment, and seemed to question the truth of the statement. I was present at the time, and heard this as well as other mistakes.

A clergyman reading, "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint," was understood to say, "The back part is sick, and the middle of the back faint."

Another, reading, "The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain," read it thus, "The crooked men shall be made straight, and the rough men, smooth ways"; leaving the women, I suppose, still crooked and rough.

When we come to the existing condition of the Church in Wales, we find it, relatively, to the intelligence and moral sense of this age, as bad, and as incapable of justification, as ever it has been. It is the Church of the wealthy and of the wealthy almost alone; it is the Church of a miserable few. Not one sixth of the present worshipping population could be accommodated in its ecclesiastical edifices, and judging from the facts now placed before us, we should say that, relatively, it is in a retrograding state. The writer quotes some very valuable evidence upon all these points, which we are persuaded has only to be placed before the electors of this country to awaken them to a determination to see that justice is done in a matter which so loudly calls for justice. Sir Benjamin Hall's evidence, given in his speech in 1849, is particularly valuable, and we are glad to see it reproduced here, for it had been, we believe, entirely forgotten. It is the more valuable inasmuch as it indicates that the estimation of the numerical power of the Church, given in the "Census of Religious Worship" must have been excessive. Churchmen claim about one-fourth of the population; the Nonconformist estimate has been one-ninth, but the probability is that even this is too high. And, most certainly, there are districts where the Church has not one-twentieth. The writer calls attention to Mr. Hugh Owen's statistical inquiry, in which out of a population of nearly half a million there appear to have been only 22,800 Church people, or scarcely more than one in nineteen. The article teems with revelations of a varied kind upon this important point. With great weight the writer remarks upon them:—

But these facts, sufficiently remarkable as they are in themselves, give really but an imperfect impression of the real magnitude of the anomaly which exists in Wales. An Established Church is presumably a national Church, and rests its claims to being established on the ground of its being national. Above all, it ought to be *par excellence* the poor man's Church, as some of the friends of the English Establishment are wont to allege, with what truth we pause not now to inquire, that theirs is. But in Wales the Church is not only not national, but it is anti-national; and the whole policy of its rulers for at least 150 years has been inspired by a prejudice as stupid as it was mean, against the Welsh nationality and language. At present, of the small remnant of the population which still remains within its pale, by far the larger part are either English immigrants into Wales, or that portion of the Welsh people which have become Anglicised in their feelings and tastes; and instead of being the poor man's Church, that of Wales is emphatically and almost exclusively the rich man's Church. There are scores, we might safely say hundreds, of Churches, in which, if the clergyman's family and the squire's family, and their few dependents and parasites, were removed, there would be absolutely no congregation at all.

The recent progress of the Church, of which some boast, upon very small materials, was made in a late number of the *Quarterly Review*, as compared with the recent progress of Nonconformity, is another point of wide interest. Is the Establishment poison working still? Is it still productive of inactivity, lethargy, and indifference? Here are the facts:—

With regard to the whole of Wales, our information as respects what the Church has done during the last twenty years, is not so perfect as we could wish. The number of new churches built in the four dioceses appears, as nearly as we can calculate from the data within our reach, to be about 110. But there is more difficulty in getting at those rebuilt and enlarged, as in one of the returns (that of St. Asaph) we find churches "restored" and "improved," words implying merely repairs of existing fabrics, without any additional accommodation—mixed up with those which have been "rebuilt and enlarged." We have the precise number rebuilt, and we are willing to presume somewhat enlarged, in Llandaff, which is thirty-six, and in Bangor, which is thirty-one. We think it would be a liberal allowance from the statistical report before us to assign thirty-five "enlarged" churches to St. Asaph, and judging by the number of new churches built in St. David's, we presume that thirty "enlarged" churches would cover all that has been done in that diocese, making a total rebuilt and enlarged of 132. Let us now turn to the Nonconformists. The following are facts on the substantial accuracy of which our readers may rely. Since 1850, the Calvinistic Methodists have built 321 new chapels, and have rebuilt and

enlarged 435 more, providing additional accommodation in all for 123,881 worshippers, at a cost of 366,000*l.* The Independents, during the same period, have built 118 new chapels, and have rebuilt and enlarged 200 more, furnishing additional accommodation for 130,000, at a cost of 294,000*l.* The Baptists have built 142 new chapels, and rebuilt and enlarged ninety-nine more, furnishing additional accommodation for 81,800, at a cost of 163,000*l.* Thus, these three denominations alone have in twenty years built 581 new chapels, and rebuilt and enlarged 734 more, providing accommodation for 308,681 persons, at a cost of 823,000*l.*

Here our extracts must end, but our readers will, we are sure, not grudge the space we have devoted to those which we have made. When we all knew, to our shame, less of Wales than we do now, we were apt to think of it with only a middling respect—perhaps, sometimes, with not so good a feeling as that. The Welsh themselves have since taught us how to respect them. We find in them an intelligent, a devout, a moral, a God-fearing, and a patriotic people. In all that respects the highest life we might well take example from them. Happy would the English nation be if it had so much religion and such little crime as is to be found in the Principality. And the people have become what they are through their Dissent. What would they have been now had they have been left to the Establishment?

We thank the conductors of the *British Quarterly* for publishing this article, which we hope to see reprinted and translated into Welsh.

#### DEAN ALFORD.

The death of Dean Alford is an event which cannot have failed to touch very many as with the sense of a personal loss. He was distinguished in many walks. Unsurpassed as a classical scholar, he was also divine, poet, critic, essayist, and artist; and in each department he won successes which might have made another man's reputation. Everything alike that came from his hand gives us the impression of fine qualities. Do we look to his New Testaments; Greek or English? Then patience, thoroughness, and right English assiduity testify themselves on every page. Or do we refer to his essays and poems? Then does not everywhere an open generous spirit proclaim itself—a spirit full of simplicity, yet daring, upright, loving only the best things and inspiring in the reader a kindred love? Dean Alford was most indefatigable. Amid troubles and disappointments he never paused. Indeed if any fault is to be found with the memorial he has left behind him in this shape, it is that he himself scarcely laid the same value as the world did on what he produced. He was apt to attempt too much, and he sometimes failed to give that last felicitous touch, which only results from a prudent waiting upon the happy moods that scarce come at our call.

But England has recently seen no more thorough worker than Dean Alford. His Greek Testament was the work of twenty years of the best portion of his life. No one, unless he has attempted working of the same kind, can guess the excessive labour involved in inspecting MSS., widely scattered here and there, examining commentaries, collating texts and determining readings. It is true that other works now come into competition with Alford's; but none surpass it for general usefulness; and then it must always be remembered that Alford was the first in the field and that Wordsworth, Ellicott, and the rest are so far his followers. 'Tis easy to improve upon an exemplar; we never forget the fantasy of Mahomet's egg. Dean Alford's Greek Testament is a *sine qua non* to the theological student, and will be for many years to come. It is truly a great work.

But before his name had come to be so closely identified with the critical edition of the Greek New Testament, Henry Alford was already well-known. He had been hailed as a poet worthy to walk unabashed beside Wordsworth and Tennyson. Professor Wilson, in one of his most genial papers, declared that the author of "The School of the Heart" was worthy to call Wordsworth friend, and to walk with him in spirit through the "Churchyard among the Mountains." The *Edinburgh Review* was as liberal in its praise, finding some of the passages worthy of Tennyson. Sensitive to the beauties of nature, Alford was also happy in his college friends. The man who was associated at Cambridge with Tennyson, Arthur Hallam, and Trench, could not lack for the social incitement said to be essential for the production of poetry. The poetic temperament needs praise, and the sympathy which gives soul to praise, as the plant needs the light. Young Alford was in good company. There is a quiet meditateness, a lyric truth, and a vividness of picture, which attest at once the true eye and the musical ear. His poems were first published anonymously; but after he had settled in the small vicarage of

Wymeswold, in Leicestershire, a new edition, with some fresh poems, was issued with the author's name. "The School of the Heart" is a series of poems called lessons, by means of which the poet seeks to reveal his own inner feelings and the various moods of the poetic character. The object of the poem is, he tells us in a prefatory sonnet:—

"The fragments of God's image to restore,  
The earnest longings of the soul to feed,  
And balm into the spirit's wounds to pour."

A later edition of 1852 was dedicated to Alfred Tennyson, in which the author says:—"It is 'the brightest recollection of my poetic life that I witnessed in those happy evenings [in the 'English Club, Cambridge] the first outburst' and the gradual modulating into harmony of 'some of your sweetest strains, which are now 'known and felt throughout the world.'" One of his earlier poems, "Last Words," strikes us as being specially fine. Standing by the bedside of the dying, the poet interprets and renders into harmonious form, her feelings in that sacred dream, when the spirit draws to itself, in the sweet pain of parting, all that is tender and beautiful, most dearly loved and cherished:—

"Refresh me with the bright-blue violet,  
And put the pale faint-scented primrose near,  
For I am breathing yet.  
Shed not one silly tear.  
But when mine eyes are set,  
Scatter the fresh flowers thick upon my bier,  
And let my early grave with morning dew be wet.  
I have pass'd swiftly o'er the pleasant earth,  
My life hath been the shadow of a dream;  
The joyousness of birth  
Did ever with me seem.  
My spirit had no dearth,  
But dwelt for ever by a full, swift stream,  
Lapt in a golden trance of never-failing mirth.  
Touch me once more, my father, ere my hand  
Have not an answer for thee; kiss my cheek  
Ere the blood fix and stand  
Where flits the hectic streak;  
Give me thy last command,  
Before I lie all undisturbed and meek,  
Wrapt in the snowy folds of funeral swathing-band."

Some of the sonnets are very fine. The following is perhaps as faithful a confession as was ever penned.

"If thou would'st find what holiest men have sought,  
Communion with the power of poetry,  
Empty thy mind of all unquiet thought,  
Lay bare thy spirit to the vaulting sky  
And glory of the sunshine: go and stand  
Where nodding briars sport with the water-break,  
Or by the flashing of a moonlight creek  
Or breast the wind upon some jutting land:  
The most unheeded things have influences  
That sink into the soul; in after hours  
We oft are tempted suddenly to dress  
The tombs of half-forgotten moods with flowers;  
Our own choice mocks us; and the sweetest themes  
Come to us without call, wayward as dreams."

Conspicuous in Alford's poetry is a tender love of nature. He loves the fresh breath of the morning and the strong breeze from the sea. The hills are familiar to him; he reads their seamy faces like the faces of friends. And hence there is to the end a certain fresh out-of-doors youthfulness about him. Up even to a recent period he longed for his holidays when he could roam at will in woods or beach, and sketch what most struck him. He loved to walk in out-of-the-way routes, and would sometimes go gleefully barefoot for long stretches when the road permitted. There was no affectation or official pride about him; perhaps no Church dignitary ever more completely escaped from it. Nor was there any trace of sourness or cynicism in his nature. He was open and frank to a degree. When he had occasion to deal a blow to an opponent, it was right openly and fairly done.

Mr. Alford soon relinquished poetry for graver studies. He was only thirty when he set himself down to that gigantic work—his *magnum opus*—the "Greek Testament." In 1841 and 1842 he delivered the Hulsean Lectures at Cambridge. His subject was the "Consistency of the Divine Conduct in Revealing the 'Doctrines of Redemption.'" His main aim seems to have been to show that the great facts of our holy religion were the only foundation of spiritual life in Old Testament times, as in our own; and that the Substitute for sinners was looked on even by the saints of old. Occasionally the strain rises into something of chaste and lofty eloquence. From Wymeswold he came to Quebec-street Chapel, London, where he soon became distinguished as a preacher, publishing some of his sermons under the title, "Quebec-street Sermons." From thence he was transferred to the Deanery of Canterbury. How nobly he filled that office it is not needful for us to say. The large Christian generosity, which made him not only ready to hold out the hand of brotherhood to Nonconformists, but to fight some of their battles for them, is not likely to be soon forgotten. He was one of the first men to declare from within the bosom of the English Church that disestablishment was near and inevitable, and to counsel Churchmen to

show a larger, more liberal, and more Christian mode of meeting other Christians than had been their wont. As editor of the *Contemporary Review*, which he only gave up on account of failing health, his influence was deliberately given to urging reform in this direction, and his trumpet never gave forth an uncertain sound. He was pre-eminently honest and upright. He did not know the meaning of *finesse* or self-seeking. Sometimes he even unnecessarily exposed himself to retort and to attack. One of the most learned, he was at the same time one of the most devout, men the Church of England has produced. Every section of Christendom owes him gratitude. Hymns of his are to be found in every collection that aims at reflecting the whole circle of Christian thought and inspiration. He was sound in the faith, yet most liberal in his sympathies; and there can be no doubt that as a Church politician he lost influence through his inability to positively attach himself to any Church party. Too evangelical to be a Broad Churchman, he yet was too broad to be a favourite with the *Record*; while, again, the High Churchmen detested his thorough Protestantism, from which no harsh words could drive him one single inch. Altogether we may call him one of our truest Englishmen of recent days. He was honest, upright, fearless in speech, and true in act; not given to brawling, but firm to a purpose; generous in judgment, devout in spirit; a man whom the Church of England, in face of her impending crisis, could ill afford to lose.

#### THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

##### MEETING AT BATLEY.

On Tuesday evening last, the Rev. Marmaduke Miller, of Huddersfield, delivered a lecture on the above subject, in the Public Hall, Batley, under the auspices of the Liberation Society. Thomas Taylor, Esq., J.P., occupied the chair, and there was also on the platform Councillor A. Blakeley, Mr. Joseph Parker, sen., and Mr. John Andrew, Leeds, agent of the Liberation Society.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the lecturer, said that the question of a separation of the Church and State seemed to be rising from that state of abeyance in which it had been kept for ages past, and taking its place among the debatable subjects of the present day. He thought he would be a leading feature in the national discussions of our day, both in and out of Parliament—(Hear, hear.)—until a separation was brought about. It was a great pity they did not understand each other better on that question. The Liberation Society was seeking to divorce the Church from the State, and the Church people looked upon the members of that Society as no better than revolutionists, who were wanting to pull down the Church and undermine the Throne. Now there was no such thing about it. It was quite a misconception of the relationship between the Church and the State. Some people thought the Church could not survive a separation from the State, and that the State could not exist without the Church. He (the speaker) thought the Church, and all that was good and valuable in it, would not only survive a separation, but would be better, and would lead a holier and a diviner life than before. (Cheers.) And with regard to the State, it was quite a wrong idea to suppose that it would suffer from the separation, or that the Queen would be in any danger. He hoped they would live to see the day when there would be a separation, and then the Church would thank Mr. Miall and the friends of the Liberation Society for liberating her from her bondage, that she might have a more prosperous career than she had ever had before. (Cheers.)

Mr. MILLER proceeded to deliver a lecture on the present state of the Church Establishment question, quoting from numerous Church authorities in favour of separation. After this, at some length, he explained the working of the Establishment, and he showed that the Church, owing to its union with the State, was hampered in many ways, in doing its own proper work. He admitted most readily and fully that the Church of England was a very great blessing to this country, and was doing an incalculable amount of good; and in all her efforts to evangelise the people of this country he bade her God speed. But a Church which claimed to be a national church of a great and growing people ought surely to have the power to adapt itself to different times and varying circumstances, and should not be bound down to one stereotyped method and rule of working. If a great national church had not the power and elasticity to adapt itself to the exigencies of altered times and changing circumstances, it must fail in its great mission. He showed how the Church was crippled for want of that liberty which was the rightful inheritance of every Christian church. He asked, was it not a disgraceful thing that a great Christian Church should have to go to the House of Commons for any reform it might be in need of? and after having given numerous illustrations of the utter helplessness of the Church for want of self-government, he concluded by saying that it was for want of freedom of action that the Church had been so outstripped in providing religious accommodation for the people by the free churches of this country, and the lecturer showed how perfect was the freedom enjoyed by those churches. He contrasted the difficulties with which Dissenters as a rule had had to

contend against with the advantages the Church of England had, on the other hand, enjoyed so largely, and he showed that the State Church, with all its advantages, only increased its accommodation for religious worship 30 per cent. during the first half of this century, while the free churches, in spite of their poverty and persecution, increased their accommodation more than 400 per cent. How was it this great, learned, wealthy Church had been thus left behind? The chief reason was that it had been in bondage, while the Nonconformist churches had been free. (Loud cheering.)

Councillor BLAKELEY, on rising to propose a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said he had long been satisfied, but he now felt more established and settled than heretofore, after hearing that lecture, that the State associations of the Church of England were absolutely calculated to interfere with its effectual working as a Christian institution. (Applause.) The position on which the Liberation Society stood was strong ground, the arguments with which they were able to assail the position of the Church of England were altogether unanswerable—(Hear, hear.)—and would ere long, he believed, be recognised by the public generally. He had no doubt that many there would feel the same conviction as himself on the subject.

Mr. JOSEPH PARKER, sen., in seconding the resolution, endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers that the subject of a separation of the Church from the State was becoming one of great and powerful importance.

Mr. ANDREW, in supporting the resolution, said he wished all the Churchmen in Batley could have been present and listened to the lecture, and if their minds had been open to conviction, they would have been convinced that those who advocated the separation of Church and State were not their enemies, as they were often represented to be, but their best friends. (Hear, hear.) He wished they could only get Churchmen to look at the question in a controversial point of view; the more they did that, the better they would be prepared to deal with them. It was necessary to repeat again and again that the Liberation Society did not interfere with the doctrinal views of Churchmen, neither did they wish to interfere with their modes of worship, or their forms of Church Government, they had nothing to do with those things on that platform. (Hear, hear.) What they had to do with the Church was, as a political establishment. The speaker afterwards refuted a statement recently made by the Bishop of Manchester in reference to the objects and aims of the Society, and afterwards spoke of the progress which the principles of the Society had made of late years, and observed that they had still a great struggle before them.

The resolution having been carried unanimously, a vote of thanks to the chairman was passed, and the proceedings concluded.

#### M.P.'S ON THE DISESTABLISHMENT QUESTION.

##### SIR CHARLES DILKE AT KENSINGTON.

In addressing his constituents at Kensington last week, Sir Charles Dilke said he thought there were reforms infinitely transcending in importance those which had been carried out in the present Parliament. The principle, for instance, that equal political rights ought to belong to voters whatever portion of the country they may inhabit. The replacing, too, of the idea of religious toleration by that of religious equality was making its way. He could understand Churchmen espousing the beautiful dream of an all-embracing Establishment; but that a Dissenter of the Dissenters, like Mr. Winterbotham, should resign himself to a state of things in which religious truth was laid down to the country in the judgments of Lord Westbury, was more than he could understand. He remembered that when Mr. Winterbotham was canvassing his present constituency in 1868 he was received by the Dissenters there with all the more enthusiasm because one of his not distant ancestors had been the victim of religious persecution. He feared that if that ancestor could come to life he would look upon the member for Stroud as a degenerate descendant. After declaring that he should support Mr. Miall's resolution, Sir Charles Dilke went on to deplore the hindrances to reform which was presented by the cumbrousness of our Parliamentary machinery.

##### MR. CARTER AT LEEDS.

Mr. Carter, M.P., in addressing his constituents at Leeds, on Friday, made the following remarks on the same subject:—"There is another question. It is one which some gentlemen in this room feel very strongly about. I mean the question of the disestablishment and disendowment of the English Church. (Loud cheering.) I am aware it is a difficult question, but in my judgment it is a vital question. As Nonconformists we have allowed the Church to keep possession of the large proportion of the children of this country, and we have given them over to her training. If what some of the Church ministers say be true, they will have hold of the women in the next generation as well as the children. (Laughter.) Well, liberty would be far more extended in some of the countries on the continent if the priests had not such hold of the women. (Hear, hear.) I am afraid if we leave this question alone it may sap the Liberal principles that we have many of us fought hard for for many years. (A voice, 'Gammon.') I grant that some of my friends may think it 'gammon'; but then what may be 'gammon' to them may not be 'gammon' to me. I am speaking what I honestly believe. Leave it alone I say, and it may sap the foundations of Liberalism. (Hear, hear.) I do not think the Nonconformists of this country sufficiently

estimate the immense wealth in possession of the Church that has been constantly used in opposition to them. As a Nonconformist, I protest against this immense wealth. I protest against an immense amount of wealth that belongs to the nation being used for the benefit of one sect to the exclusion of every other. (Cheers.) This wealth might be applied so as to give benefit equally to the whole population. It might go very appropriately to educate the people. There are about five millions of children of school age in the United Kingdom, and as I believe the wealth of the Church of England amounts at least to 10,000,000*l.* per annum, that is 2*l.* per child. I think if that sum was devoted to education it would be more usefully spent, and spent to greater satisfaction to the masses of the people than it is at present. The last returns that we have of the wealth of the Church of England were obtained many years since. It was then stated to be 3,738,915*l.* per annum. Now I have found that clergymen and bishops are very bad hands at making up returns, and I believe that if a correct return of this Church property were now made out the sum would be what he said—at least 10,000,000*l.* per annum. When the last return was made (in 1833) the Bishop of Bath and Wells said his estates produced 5,946*l.* per annum, and then he added that the see lands in future would only produce 5,500*l.* But when the estates fell into the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners the value of the estates in fee simple was found to be 822,000*l.* If you will just calculate you will find that this sum—more than three-quarters of a million—invested at three and a half per cent., would bring in, not 5,500*l.*, but 28,700*l.* per annum, or five times what was said to be the revenue by the Bishop. In the same year the Dean and Chapter of York returned their income at rather over 2,000*l.* per annum. When their estates fell into the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners they were not merely valued but sold, and these estates, said to realise 2,000*l.* odd per annum, were sold for 413,000*l.*—('Oh, oh')—a long way towards half-a-million. At three and a half per cent. this amount would give 14,470*l.* per annum, or six times the amount stated by the Dean and Chapter. Then the prebend's stall in St. Paul's which was returned at 1,513*l.*, and which lets to-day for 70,000*l.* per annum. ('Oh, oh,' and 'Shame.') From these three cases, which are nearly the only cases which the Government has been able to get at, I think you will freely admit that I am perfectly justified in coming to the conclusion that the wealth of the Church of England, independent of benefactions in recent centuries, and independent of our service fees, as they are called, or of any charges that the clergy are understood as being entitled to, is to-day worth more than 10,000,000*l.* per annum. I object to this 10,000,000*l.* being used as it is. A large proportion of it is used under false pretences. I do not state this on my own authority; but I go upon the testimony of some of their own clergymen."

MR. BAINES AT LEEDS.

Mr. Edward Baines, in answer to the question whether he would support Mr. Miall's motion for the disestablishment of the English Church, declined to pledge himself, not knowing what that motion might be; and expressed an opinion that it would be better if Mr. Miall waited until he saw the result of the experiment with regard to Ireland. In the present state of political parties he did not think it would be wise to support a bill to relieve the Bishops from their attendance in the Upper House.

MR. M'LAREN AT EDINBURGH.

Touching, lastly, on the question of disestablishing the Church of Scotland, Mr. M'Laren quoted a remark of the Home Secretary's, to the effect that there did not seem to be that unanimity which would induce a Government to introduce such a measure. But, he went on to say, Government was never known to introduce a thing at first. Everything was introduced by private members at first, and it was only when outdoor agitation seemed to have ripened the country in a particular direction, and caused a great unanimity of opinion, that Government struck in and took up the question. (Interruption.) Mr. Miall gave notice last session that he would bring before Parliament the propriety of disestablishing the Church of England. Now he (Mr. M'Laren), being one of the executive members of the Liberation Society, was recently asked to attend a meeting of that Society in London, at which that class of questions was to be considered. It was not convenient for him to go, but he wrote to the effect that he thought Mr. Miall had made a mistake in not including the Scotch Church in his motion; that it was the weaker Church of the two; and that, if it was a principle he advocated, he should generalise his motion, and make it applicable to all Churches. (Hisses and cheers.) He had heard from the secretary that his letter had been read at the meeting, that all the members saw the propriety of it, and that Mr. Miall was going to generalise his resolution, and make it a simple motion for disestablishment. (Hisses and cheers.)

#### MR. WINTERBOTHAM AND AGITATION AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT.

(From the *Freeman*.)

Mr. Winterbotham justifies his proposed course by three reasons—1st, the enormous good being effected by the laity and clergy of the Church; 2nd, the certainty of its fate being soon satisfactorily determined by the excess of life within it; 3rd, the bitterness which such a measure as that foreshadowed would stir up in the land. We are half disposed to think that the last is the real reason which influences Mr. Winterbotham's mind, and that the first and

second are chiefly introduced—as a special pleader frequently does—to present the appearance of a cumulative argument, when each of the arguments taken singly must be held as insufficient. Mr. Winterbotham, open as his eyes are to the evil of the Establishment principle, can hardly think that the clergy and laity who now do such "enormous good," would cease to do it if their exertions were no longer based on a "detestable principle." Woe to the very idea of "principle," if, the further we depart from a bad one, and the more we relied on a good one, the less good we did! And as a matter of fact, we are quite sure Mr. Winterbotham will admit two things—that he hopes for more good from the clergy and laity of Ireland now disestablished, than he did from them while cherishing the "detestable principle"; and the Dissenting clergy and laity, disestablished ever since the Act of Uniformity, have, out of all proportion to their numbers and wealth, done more "enormous good" than the clergy and laity of the State Church.

As to the second reason, how can Mr. Winterbotham, with the Church of Scotland before him, maintain such an opinion? We may regard it as quite certain that no such disruption can ever occur in the Episcopal Church of England as occurred in that of Scotland when the Free Church was formed.

There was great excess of life in that Church. It burst asunder with it. Indeed, the large majority of the laity, as well as of the clergy, found vent to their life in secession; yet those who seceded strenuously defended the Establishment principle, and a large part of them do so till this day; while those who remained made themselves quite comfortable in their almost empty churches, and soon found plenty of candidates for the pulpits, mansees, and incomes of the seceded clergy. We do not remember any Establishment which has died of excess of life. The facts of history are as opposed to that idea as the words are contradictory in themselves. Our colonies, the United States, Ireland, all testify that Establishments fall only by the external attacks of the sacred principle for statesmen of religious equality. It were easy to show from the unworthier qualities of human nature that so it must ever be. The privileged will never disrobe themselves; they will glory in distinction and hug their emoluments. Individuals, indeed, like a Noel or a Neville, occasionally show that human nature is capable of self-emancipation—organised corporations never. They require to be reformed from without. Their members will quarrel with each other bitterly enough, but few of them, indeed, quarrel with their own share of the good things.

But the last argument—we admit the fact of probably great bitterness—we admit the unpleasantness of it—but we have yet to learn which of the great reforms of the half-century has been carried without great bitterness. We distinctly remember them all, from Catholic Emancipation to the Liberation of the Irish Church, and whether they have been measures of religious or political or commercial liberty, the bitterness has been intense. Let not Mr. Winterbotham expect to be a political apostle without expecting also to hear a loud clamour that he and his ought to die. We are disposed, however, to think that the bitterness in the present case, all-pervading as the influence of the Establishment is, will be less than that generated, even by the efforts of the League and the repeal of the Corn Laws, not to speak of greater reforms. Our reason is that the conscience of the whole community is, we believe, thoroughly sapped in regard to the consistency of Establishments with Christianity itself, as well as their consistency with the equal rights of all subjects irrespective of their religion. We believe that vast numbers who take care to betray by no outward sign their misgivings, really have them—that a great many, like schoolboys whistling in a churchyard at night, only talk loudly for Establishments to drown their fears about them; that very great numbers believe their end must soon come, and do not care how soon; great numbers of the indifferent, also, must heartily wish the troublesome question out of the way. What with all these, and the energetic men who reproach their own brethren with their cowardice in fearing emancipation from the Ultimate Court of Appeal, the bitterness which we look for will be largely mitigated—it will be felt that we are not out of the Court of Reason, nor even without precedent. Indeed, the Irish Disestablishment, clenching so near at hand that of so many colonial ones, must have changed the conscious standpoint of all tolerably intelligent politicians. In conclusion, we may admit that a statesman ought not to provoke needless bitterness, but on the other hand he ought not to sacrifice the cause of those who are in the right to the bitterness of those who are in the wrong.

#### THE CLERGY AND NONCONFORMIST PULPITS.

(From the *Solicitors' Journal*.)

Our contemporary, the *Freeman*, whilst concurring in the view recently taken in this journal of the law excluding Nonconformist ministers from Church pulpits, suggests that the clergy who desire to show their good-will to their Dissenting brethren, should be invited to preach in the pulpits of Dissenting chapels.

But they could not accept the invitation without some risks. They cannot, apart from the provisions of the recent Clerical Disabilities Act, shake off the authority of the bishop or the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Court. They cannot be at the same time English clergymen and Dissenting ministers. Some years ago poor Mr. Shore tried the experiment, but failed in his attempt (*Barnes v. Shore*, 3 Q. B. 640). Probably, in practice, few prelates who would

choose to interfere with a clergyman who wished to preach in a Congregationalist or Baptist chapel. But there is no doubt that he could be inhibited, and if he neglected the inhibition, could be punished as the Ecclesiastical Court might direct. To preach a sermon in an unconsecrated chapel, where all strangers who choose have access, is a public officiating by the preacher of which the bishop can, if he pleases, take cognisance (*Trebec v. Keith*, 2 Atk. 498; *Freeland v. Neale*, 6 Notes of Cases, 252).

Again, the consent of the incumbent of the parish in which the preaching takes place is required, and to act without his consent would be an ecclesiastical offence. "It is a general rule of law," says Abbot, C.J., in *Farnworth v. Bishop of Chester* (4 B. and C. 568), "that no person can be authorised to preach publicly in a chapel to which all the inhabitants of a district have a right to resort without the consent of the clergyman to whom the cure of souls is given." Some of our readers may remember that in 1857 the incumbent of St. Michael's, Strand, acting on this rule, asserted his right to prevent a brother clergyman from officiating at some special services at Exeter Hall; and there can be little doubt that, in taking that course, he was acting strictly within his legal rights. Any clergyman, therefore, who should accept an invitation to preach in a Dissenting chapel, will have to encounter the double possibility of censure from his diocesan, and of proceedings at the instance of the incumbent in whose parish he preaches.

#### PROPOSED CHURCH REFORMS.

The following letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Bishop of London has been published:—

San Remo, Italy, Dec. 27, 1870.

My dear Bishop of London,—As the time is approaching when such ecclesiastical measures as are to be submitted to Parliament next session must be matured, I think it well that the clergy and laity should have an opportunity of quietly considering them in the interval which has still to elapse before the meeting of Parliament and of the Convocation of Canterbury.

I am in communication with the Archbishop of York, and hope that the two provinces may be able to act in concert with reference to such measures as are desirable, and I now take the constitutional step of publicly addressing you as Dean of the Southern Province, in order that the attention of our own clergy and laity may be directed to what we deem desirable.

It cannot be denied that many important matters of ecclesiastical reform which have been long talked of have hitherto been unaccountably thwarted in their passage through the Legislature. The good hopes, for example, which were entertained by all of us for last session came to nothing, and, with the exception of the Bishops' Retirement Act, the only considerable improvement in our ecclesiastical system which has been effected of late years is the revival of the ancient office of bishop-suffragan, and this was accomplished by the resolution of Her Majesty's Government, at the request of the heads of the Church, and at the suggestion of the Convocation of Canterbury, to revive an already existing statute which could be acted on without fresh legislation. Last session the proposals to sanction a new Table of Lessons in the Prayer-book, to improve the law of ecclesiastical dilapidations, to reform the Ecclesiastical Courts, and other important measures of reform, though it was known that they were generally acceptable both to clergy and laity, and most of them had received the distinct sanction of the clergy in their constitutional corporate capacity, all failed to command such attention as was necessary to insure their passage through Parliament.

My belief is that these failures are, in part at least, attributable to the fact that sufficient publicity was not given to the measures intended to be proposed, and thus they had not received through general discussion that distinct sanction of public opinion which seems necessary in England for all important changes. It is with the view of obviating, if possible, this difficulty in the coming year, that I now thus formally address your lordship.

1. I take it for granted that Her Majesty's Government cannot allow the proposed change in the Table of Lessons, as embodied in the Lctionary Bill of the last session, to fall to the ground. Important branches of industry have been disturbed by the failure of that bill, and great confusion, both in the University printers' and Queen's printers' offices, has followed. Yet it seems probable that the same opposition which caused the withdrawal of the bill last session will again prove fatal to it unless its scope be enlarged. The bill proposed to embody a recommendation of the Ritual Commission, and many felt that other most important recommendations of that commission, on which there was little or no diversity of opinion in the Church, ought to have been embodied in it, and that otherwise the original promoters of the movement which led to the appointment of the commission might be thought to have been treated deceitfully. It is true that the most vexed questions, affecting the vestments of the clergy and certain recently introduced extravagancies of the Ritual, will, in all probability, be settled by the courts of law before Parliament meets, and it seems to have been thought wise by the Ritual Commission to await these decisions of the courts, before calling for legislation on such points. But there remain a great many important improvements respecting which there is scarcely any difference of opinion in the Church which have been recommended by that commission. I may instance an improvement respecting the use of the Burial Service, a power of abridging the daily Church Service with the consent of the diocesan, a distinct recognition of the propriety at times of dividing the several parts of the Sunday service, and some amendment of the Rubric regulating the use of the Athanasian Creed, as matters on which there seems to be an almost universal consent in the Church.

2. Connected with the same subject as the proposal of the Ritual Commission to give the communicate laity of each parish some voice in the ordering of the mode of conducting the Church services, not intended to be everywhere entirely alike, was Lord Sandon's measure upon the appointment of parochial councils. There was also a clause of a similar nature in Lord

**Shaftesbury's Ecclesiastical Courts Bill.** From all these several proposals some measure may well be devised which shall give the laity of each parish their legitimate influence, and yet not interfere unnecessarily with the discretion of the parish clergy.

There remain:—

3. The Archbishop of York's Ecclesiastical Dilapidations Bill.

4. The Bishop of Winchester's Bill for allowing disabled clergymen to retire from their cures.

5. The bill advocated by the Duke of Marlborough in the House of Lords to restrain the sale of next presentations to livings.

6. The proposal to reform the Ecclesiastical Courts, which Lord Shaftesbury has for two sessions brought before the attention of the House of Lords.

7. The proposals to remove the abuses attendant upon the sequestration of benefices which occupied the attention of a select committee of the House of Lords last session.

I do not think that we shall have done our duty to the Church and nation till all these questions have been finally settled. I hope that such of them as have not yet been formally approved by our conventions may speedily be discussed in these bodies, and that both clergy and laity will lose as little time as possible in making their opinions known to the Legislature. It seems to me to be the duty of the heads of the Church to consult at once with Her Majesty's Government as to the best means to be taken for giving effect to the wishes of Churchmen on these important reforms. Some of the measures may with great propriety be introduced in the first instance in the House of Commons, either by the Government or by some of those private members who so well represent our feelings in that House, and have secured to themselves the attention of Parliament. Meanwhile, it seems to me also desirable that when the proper time comes joint committees of the two Convocations of Canterbury and York should be appointed to discuss and communicate with the Government on such of these proposals as have not yet been fully considered by the clergy of both provinces.—Believe me to be, my dear Bishop of London, yours very sincerely,

(Signed) A. C. CANTUAR.

The Right Reverend and Right Hon.  
the Lord Bishop of London.

#### STATISTICS OF BAPTIST CHURCHES.

According to the information given in the *Baptist Handbook* the Baptist churches in Great Britain and Ireland number 2,568, with a membership of 233,675. This, however, from some unaccountable cause, shows a considerable decrease of membership—upwards of 3,810. There are 1,910 churches in England, 511 in Wales, 116 in Scotland, and 37 in Ireland. Altogether there are 1,900 Baptist ministers, of whom 55 are in Scotland, and 25 in Ireland, and of these no fewer than 426 are without a charge—against 403 last year. The total number of chapels, 3,098; Sunday-schools, 307,169. Throughout the world there are 15,879 Baptist churches, and 1,382,024 members. The following is the general summary of statistics:—

MEMBERS.	Churches.	Members.
Great Britain and Ireland ..	2,568 ..	233,675
Denmark .. .. .	18 ..	1,872
France .. .. .	12 ..	581
Germany .. .. .	72 ..	13,509
Holland .. .. .	1 ..	90
Norway .. .. .	1 ..	132
Poland .. .. .	1 ..	771
Russia .. .. .	4 ..	1,186
Sweden .. .. .	207 ..	8,120
Turkey .. .. .	1 ..	120
ASIA.		
India (327 stations) ..	35 ..	2,899
China .. .. .	3 ..	29
Ceylon .. .. .	74 ..	538
AFRICA.		
Cape Colony .. .. .	5 ..	350
Cameroons, &c. ..	4 ..	111
St. Helena .. .. .	1 ..	200
AMERICA.		
West Indies .. .. .	102 ..	2,249
Canada .. .. .	322 ..	17,042
New Scotia, New Brunswick ..	304 ..	27,905
United States .. .. .	12,011 ..	1,121,988
AUSTRALASIA.		
New South Wales .. .. .	22 ..	728
Queensland .. .. .	9 ..	201
South Australia .. .. .	42 ..	1,457
Victoria .. .. .	45 ..	1,457
New Zealand .. .. .	9 ..	478
Tasmania .. .. .	6 ..	—

TOTAL.—In Great Britain and the Colonies, 3,458 Churches; 244,200 members.

It is stated that Bishop Wordsworth's "Commentary on the Bible," on which he has been engaged for the last sixteen years, will be completed early this year.

**THE VOYAGE CASE.**—We are informed that the judgment in the Voyage appeal case has been pronounced, and is now only waiting the approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which is expected shortly.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

**THE IRISH CHURCH.**—A controversy has arisen in Ireland with reference to the title of the Church. Mr. Donnelly, the Registrar-General, is energetically assailed because he suggested the filling up of the marriage returns with the words "Protestant Episcopal Church," instead of "Church of Ireland." The Episcopal clergy refuse to make the alteration which he suggests, contending that the disestablishing Act gives them the right to use the designation of "Church of Ireland."

**INTERCHANGING OF PULPITS.**—An active movement is now going on in London for securing reciprocal action between the clergy of the English Church and

the Dissenting ministers, so that they may, under episcopal sanction, be able to preach in each other's pulpits. Several leading Broad Churchmen have joined an association started for carrying out this object, and the most prominent Dissenting ministers who have joined it are Dr. Raleigh, Mr. Baldwin Brown, and Mr. Allon.—*Globe*.

**A CHURCH-RATE CASE.**—The Court of Arches was occupied on Friday with the case of "Asterley and Another v. Adams," a Church-rate suit to recover 10s. 9d. The plaintiffs are churchwardens of Edmond, Salop, and the defendant a parishioner. In consequence of the recent decision of the Judicial Committee in the case of "Smallbones v. Edney," holding that tithes as well as all other property must be assessed, the defendant applied to file additional articles to bring the question before the court as to the assessment. Sir R. Phillimore, who remarked that Church-rate litigation was "dying out," granted the application to file additional articles.

A SCOTCH M.P. (writes a correspondent) who prides himself that he has represented the same district of burghs for a generation, when addressing his constituency stated that he voted against Mr. McLaren's Church-rate Bill on the ground that there were no such rates in Scotland, but when questioned on the subject had to confess that he did not know that Fens had to pay the assessments for the repairing and rebuilding of manse and churches, not on the amount of the yearly feu, but on the yearly value of the heritages built thereon. We doubt not this M.P. is looked on as an authority on Scotch questions because of his long connection with Scotland.

**LONDON CHURCHES.**—In the 651 London churches within a radius of twelve miles from the General Post Office, there is a weekly celebration of the Holy Communion in 184, more than one-fourth; a daily celebration at 22, nearly one-thirtieth; early morning celebration at 210, one-third; evening celebration at 130, one-fifth; afternoon celebration at five; choral celebration at 69, nearly one-ninth; saints'-day services at 199, nearly one-third; daily service at 135, nearly one-fifth; no week-day service at 110, one-sixth; full choral service at 146, more than one-fifth; and partly choral service at 170, one-fourth, giving a proportion of nearly one-half where the psalms are chanted; surpliced choir at 151, more than one-fifth; paid choir at 101, nearly one-seventh; voluntary choir at 244, more than one-third; the weekly offertory is the rule of 156, more than one-fifth; there are free but appropriated seats at 102, nearly one-sixth; the Eucharistic vestments are worn at 22, being one church in every 30; incense is used at 7, one-ninetieth; the surplice is worn in the pulpit at 186, more than one-fourth; and 25 churches are open daily for private prayer.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF MINORS.**—The Irish Lord Chancellor gave a judgment on Thursday which had been awaited not only in Dublin, but throughout Ireland, with considerable interest. It is known as the case of the Meades minors. The petition was presented by an aunt of the minors, two girls, praying that their father, a Protestant, might be restrained from interfering with the religious instruction of the children in the Catholic faith. Mr. Meade's wife by his first marriage was a Catholic lady, with whom he arranged, previous to the marriage, that their children should be brought up as Roman Catholics. This arrangement was adhered to during the life of the mother, but after her death Mr. Meade married again, the second wife being a Protestant, and the daughters were by the influence of the stepmother placed under Protestant teaching. Hence the petition by the girls' aunt. The Lord Chancellor O'Hagan, before giving judgment, had taken the utmost pains to discover the real wish of the young people themselves on the matter, the result of which was that he found they had been completely instructed in both faiths, but had belief in neither—nothing, any rate, so decided as to determine the case. The only preference they expressed was to be allowed to remain with their father, and for the present to share his religious worship. Under these circumstances, his lordship decided to remit the children to their father, and to dismiss the petition.

**MR. MUNDILLA, M.P., ON UNSECTARIAN SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.**—Speaking from the chair at the festival of the Band of Hope connected with the famous Stockport Sunday-schools, Mr. Mundilla observed that they had there a practical solution of the problem of an unsectarian Sunday-school. It had, he believed, instructed 85,000 children—(Hear)—was at present instructing 5,000 children, had its mutual improvement society and scientific class, and in a town which only ranked third-rate in England, they were setting an example to the greatest city of this or any other country. He had learnt that the past work of their schools was to some extent about to be superseded, i.e., the teaching of reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic, which ought to be secured in the common day schools. He proceeded to comment on the newly opening prospects under the Education Act, and he then spoke of his educational observations on his recent visit to America. Again and again he had gone into the schools, which were all free, and seen at their little desks children from five years old and upwards; the little Irish boy, one of the recent emigrants from the old country, the little German boy or the Danish boy, the child of the negro, with his black face and woolly hair, and the child of the judge, the lawyer, and the merchant sitting side by side. (Applause.) On the continent, also, education was carried out to a great extent. In the cotton-spinning towns of Germany and Switzerland, which he had also recently visited, the child was not to be found who could not read and write well. In conclusion, the hon. gentleman dwelt forcibly on the

temperance question, and the necessity of a complete change—he was going to say a revolution—in the licensing system.

**CANON KINGSLEY AT SION COLLEGE.**—Canon Kingsley lectured on Tuesday evening at Sion College on natural theology. He said, in conclusion:—"There it is, an unknown quantity, baffling all elucidation. Some, in despair, say, it is all vibration; but what makes vibration vibrate? So the spell of the unknown is still upon them. This unknown power, which lies below all phenomena, which underlies every living organisation, down to the colouring matter of the leaf or the tiny cell of the protoplast, is the breath of the Living God. This is the sum and substance of the whole matter, to which the scientific reason of man will some day return. Nominalism, and that which has sprung from nominalism, is running fast to seed. It is coming to an end. Realism, and we who hold realistic creeds, will have our turn. We remember the advice of the wise man, 'Go not after the world: she turns on her axis. If thou stand still long enough, she will come round to thee.'" The conclusion of the lecture was the signal for continued applause, and in the discussion which followed there was a general agreement as to the truth and value of the suggestions offered. Dr. Hayman, of Rugby, spoke of the force of animal love, especially as it led certain of the lower animals to associate with man. He pointed out instances of moral sense prominent in the world, which might be weighed against the prevalence of blind forces acting irrespective of human volition. In his reply, Canon Kingsley remarked upon the existence of a moral sense, as shown in the acts of self-sacrifice with which such moral sense was inseparably linked, among the lower animals, the social insects, &c. This he considered to be of great value in demonstrating that such moral sense has a real existence, and is not a mere name for certain qualities associated together. The next evening meeting at Sion College Hall will take place on Tuesday, February 7, when the Rev. W. D. MacLagan will bring forward the subject, "On the Means of Promoting Union with Dissenters."

#### Religious and Denominational News.

The Rev. H. W. Roberts, Pentrefoillas, has received and accepted the very cordial invitation from the Congregational church assembling at Ystradgynlais, near Swansea, and will enter his stated duties there on the first Sunday of February, 1871.

**OPEN-AIR MISSION.**—The South London Auxiliary held its fourteenth annual meeting on Wednesday evening, in the National Schools, Star-corner, Bermondsey, under the presidency of Mr. Benjamin Scott, the City Chamberlain. Mr. Joseph Palmer read a gratifying report relating to the progress and improvement of open-air preaching in the south of London. Addresses were afterwards delivered by the Rev. T. B. Stephenson, R.v. S. C. Morgan, Mr. G. Kirkham, and the Rev. J. Butterfield. It was incidentally mentioned that open-air preaching had been carried on in Paris during the present siege.

**TOWNHALLS.**—Special sermons were preached morning and evening on Sunday week at the Town Hall, Tonbridge, by the Rev. J. H. Wood, of Sandhurst, when collections were made in behalf of the funds for building a new and much needed Baptist chapel in this town. Through the generous donations and strenuous efforts of this infant church, aided by the kind help of the Rev. O. H. Spurgeon, who has given 70l., and other friends, more than six hundred pounds in money and promises, have now been raised towards this object. About 500l. are still required in order to open the chapel free of debt.

**TOTTINGTOWN, LARGASHIRE.**—Four years since the congregation here erected a place of worship, at a cost of 2,500l. After the opening services a debt of 1,334l. remained upon the building. A year ago, at the annual gathering of the congregation, Mr. S. Knowles (a member of the church), by a munificent promise, roused the congregation to work for the entire liquidation of the debt by the end of the year. Since then a most hearty and liberal spirit has been displayed by the people. On the evening of Dec. 31, at a meeting under the presidency of the Rev. F. Carter, the ministers of the place, it was declared that the efforts put forth during the year had been successful, and the church was paid for. It is hardly needful to add that the announcement was received with pleasure, and that the friends are greatly cheered and encouraged with the result of their work.

**CLERICAL CONFERENCE AT ISLINGTON.**—The forty-fourth annual conference of the clergy at Islington took place on Tuesday morning in Bishop Wilson's Memorial Hall, Church-street, under the presidency of the Rev. Daniel Wilson, vicar of Islington, there being present clergymen from all parts of the country. The Rev. Dr. Miller, vicar of Greenwich, opened the first subject for conference, "Charity in Controversy," and adverted at some length to the divisions which prevail amongst Churchmen, offering at the same time suggestions as to the manner in which present difficulties should be met. The Rev. John Richardson, vicar of Bury St. Edmund's, spoke on "The Mutual Relations and Responsibilities of the Elder and Younger Evangelical Clergy at the Present Time." Prayers were offered by the Rev. E. H. Bickersteth, M.A., vicar of Christ Church, Hampstead, and the Rev. Henry Barne, M.A., vicar of Faringdon.

**STEPNEY.**—On Monday evening week a meeting was held at Stepney-green Tabernacle to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the pastorate of A. G. Brown. Over 500 persons sat down to tea in the large schoolroom under the sanctuary. After tea the friends adjourned to the Tabernacle, which was

crowded in every part by the time of the commencement of the meeting. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. T. Wigner, of New-cross. The pastor opened the meeting by giving a review of the blessings received during his four years' labour in their midst. From that report it appears that during the four years he has given the right hand of fellowship to 500, most of whom have been gathered from the world. All the societies in connection with the church are in a most prosperous condition, and it is hoped that in a very short time the New East London Tabernacle will be commenced. He then said what great pleasure it gave him to welcome the Rev. J. Cohen, M.A., rector of Whitechapel, to their midst, and read a letter from the Rev. T. Driffeld, rector of Bow, expressing his great regret at not being able also to be present. The Rev. W. Stott then addressed the meeting, and the Rev. V. Charlesworth briefly followed. After singing a hymn, the Rector of Whitechapel rose to speak. He received a most enthusiastic ovation. He said that it was the greatest joy to him to be present, and he was second to none in the interest he took in the work of the Lord carried on in that place. After the conclusion of his address, Mr. Mace, one of the deacons of the Tabernacle, presented Mr. Brown with a purse containing 50*l.*, as a token of affection from the church and congregation.

**LONDON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting of the ministers and delegates of the London Baptist Association was held on Tuesday last week at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. The Rev. W. G. Lewis, the retiring president, occupied the chair at the morning meeting for ministers, when the Rev. D. Katterne, of Hackney, read a paper on "Theories of Public Worship." In the afternoon the Rev. F. Tucker, B.A., the president for the year, occupied the chair, and delivered an address. The Rev. S. H. Booth, honorary secretary, read the annual report, which stated that there are 111 churches connected with the association, six of which were received during the past year. Reference was made to the good which arose from the district meetings held in the metropolis, and to the laying the memorial-stone of Highbury-hill Chapel, which it is hoped will soon be ready for public worship. Dr. Outross, of Stirling, has consented to become the minister of the new chapel. Arrangements for the chapel for 1871 are not complete. It is proposed to vote 1,000*l.* towards such a chapel, to be expended under the superintendence of the president, the Rev. F. Tucker. During the year the treasurer had received 1,339*l.*, of which 708*l.* was the result of congregational collections. The movement for extinguishing chapel debts is going on hopefully. There are shown by the report, 26,124 members in the 111 churches of the association, as against 25,866 reported in the same churches last year, excepting the two which had been received during this year. On this point the report says:—"There is no doubt but little to be learnt of the earnestness or the success of our ministers from a mere enumeration of a net increase. The tide of life which flows in so rapidly at our chapel doors as rapidly flows out again; but as it is with the sowers on the Nile, the seed is not lost, though thrown upon the waters. Emigration and lack of employment has scattered many of the members of our churches. Nor can we forget that the churches in our suburbs, and many miles away, are gathering the harvest which our faithful workers are toiling in the heart of this great city to prepare. All honour to brethren who can hold their own, and replenish others too!" Some churches have enlarged their chapels, as at Arthur-street, Camberwell, and Borough-road, without incurring in either case any debt. The church at Hampstead has opened a chapel at Child's-hill, Camden-road, a mission-hall and premises at the cattle market, and the friends at the Metropolitan Tabernacle have very largely assisted in building the chapel at James-town, Peckham, and have aided our brother J. A. Spurgeon and his friends in the erection of the handsome chapel schoolroom at Croydon, and in establishing a small church at Wandsworth-common. In conclusion the report urges the vital importance of doing something each year for the spread of divine truth in the vast metropolis. "To stand still in our day as an associated body of Christian men is certain destruction. We shall be borne down and away by the strong current of our times. Growth, extension, is the condition of our spiritual life." The customary business of the association was transacted after the adoption of the report with the treasurer's balance-sheet. The evening meeting was held in the Tabernacle, when there was a large attendance. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. W. Brock, jun., and A. G. Brown.

### Correspondence.

MR. WINTERBOTHAM, M.P., ON  
DISESTABLISHMENT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I am sincerely sorry that Mr. Winterbotham does not intend to support Mr. Miall's motion upon the Church Establishment. The reason assigned is "the bitterness of feeling, which an aggressive movement is sure to excite." As a great part of the last ten years of my life has been spent in endeavouring to remove this view of the subject, so far as my limited means extend, I ask for a small space in your columns.

It is quite impossible for me to look at the subject exactly as Mr. Miall may do. It would be impertinent were I to offer Mr. Miall any advice, but I may perhaps be permitted to say that my own course would have

been to move for a committee of inquiry into the present state and working of the Church Establishment.

Till this year I have been excluded from Parliament; the expense of obtaining a seat may still exclude me, but the great value to me of such a position would have been to move for this committee, and I should have been quite willing to select the witnesses from Churchmen only. I cannot know the precise terms of Mr. Miall's motion. I cannot guess what expressions Mr. Miall may use in the heat of debate, but I have no hesitation in saying that with my convictions I should not dare to leave the House without voting for the liberation of the Episcopal Church from the patronage and control of the State. I have frequently heard speeches made by Dissenters giving the impression that they were engaged in a struggle against a foreign enemy: so long as they were debarred from political privileges by the action of the Established Church, or the clergy, there might be some excuse for hostility, but that state of things has passed away.

When I joined the Liberation Society, I did so not as an enemy of the Episcopal Church, but as "setting my own house in order." Believing, as I most firmly do, that the present alliance between Church and State is a grievous injury to the Church itself, and a very great impediment to the Christianising the people of this country, persuaded as I am that I am responsible for this alliance in my political capacity, so far as that capacity does, or may, extend, I am bound by every consideration of duty to God and my own conscience, to try to liberate the Church from this State patronage and control. If I feel no bitterness against those who conscientiously support this alliance, why should they feel the smallest bitterness against me for opposing it? It has been taken for granted that such a vital question could not be discussed without personal bitterness and animosity. There are about forty gentlemen now living who know very well that this has been proved to be a mistake. Honestly desiring to exercise such talents or opportunities as might have been committed to me, it occurred to me that, in my peculiar circumstances, I might be the means of testing the possibility of an amicable discussion by Christian gentlemen, even on the subject of "Church and State." A party was collected by me, three successive years, which embraced nearly every class of society, and every form of religious belief; this most interesting of all questions was freely discussed for three or four hours on each occasion, and not one hostile or irritating expression escaped from a single person. All I really did myself was to state admitted and notorious facts, and to request that all personal and doctrinal questions should be avoided. I decline any argument whether the famous Vicarious Stipulation in the National Church Catechism is, or is not, grounded on the New Testament, but I altogether object that an immense public endowment should be held in support of a doctrine which I am firmly persuaded is unscriptural and untrue. My belief is that a committee of the House of Commons would soon ascertain that not one person in fifty (I might just as well say one in five hundred) had any faith in this doctrine. Assuming such to be the case, one of two things must be certain—either our enormous machinery for teaching it is useless, or the doctrine is false and cannot be taught at all. With my convictions, all of which I have worked out for myself, I can never continue to be directly or indirectly responsible for a state of things which places a Christian Church, as to its doctrine and its discipline, under the control of a body which is no longer Christian. I feel bound to the utmost of my feeble power to overthrow a system which subjects this same Christian Church, even in the most distant manner, to the "vote and interest" of Baron Rothschild. If the appointment of Christian ministers is a chattel, to be bought and sold by auction, and if "infamous and blasphemous teaching" is no legal disqualification for holding such appointment, how can I look on and wait the time when an "internal" remedy arises? If there is nothing in the Episcopal Church in its discipline, its doctrine, or its subservience to the State, opposed to the teaching of the New Testament in my judgment, I dare not in any way separate from it. If on the other hand, I deem that the same Church cannot, as at present established, stand the test of this same New Testament, I dare not, directly or indirectly, continue to support it by any political power or influence I may chance to possess.

Yours &c.,  
CHRISTOPHER NEVILE.

Athenaeum, Jan. 16, 1871.

### THE PRUSSIAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—In your last issue you have quoted a paragraph from the *Spectator*, on which, with your permission, I should be glad to make one or two critical remarks. It relates to Herr von Muhler, the Prussian Minister of Public Education. The *Spectator* says:—"He is entitled to the distinction of being at once the feeblest and most obstinate obscurantist that ever lived. All Germany has been never tired of laughing at a Minister whose one notion of instruction is the diffusion of a feeble kind of Evangelicalism by force." Speaking from my own personal knowledge of Herr von Muhler, and from opinions expressed by friends who were well acquainted with him, and on whose judgment I can rely, I do not hesitate to say that the *Spectator's*

description is a gross misrepresentation. Herr von Muhler is a man of great intellectual vigour, of immense power of work, and of far larger views and sympathies than is common in the circles to which he belongs. I have met with few Prussians making any pretensions to orthodox Christianity, whose views were anything like so liberal as his. He is certainly no "obscurantist," save in the sense to which I shall presently refer. Nor is his one notion of instruction "the diffusion of feeble Evangelicalism by force."

One thing I grant—Herr von Muhler is almost universally credited with the character which the *Spectator* gives him. He has been for years the *bris noir* of the entire Liberal press of Germany—the opinions of which are reiterated by our Liberals without any examination. He is the best-abused man in Prussia. How, then, are the two things possible? If he be such as I believe, how can he have gained the reputation he actually enjoys? I will try to throw light on this phenomenon.

1. In the first place, though Herr von Muhler is a man of intellectual vigour, relatively large views and sympathies, he has not the energy equal to carrying them out. His *volontés* are admirable; his actual volitions fall considerably short of his *volontés*.

2. Though Herr von Muhler is Minister, he is not omnipotent. His department, or rather departments, are subdivided into departments, each of which has its own head. These heads have really almost as much, if not more power, than the Minister himself. The Educational Department has two main divisions, the one dealing with the higher schools, the other with the common schools. Dr. Wiese, who is at the head of the higher school division is perhaps as able, true, and far-seeing a school man as is to be found in Europe—he has not his superior in Germany. When I add that he is and was a great admirer of Dr. Arnold; that he appreciates the good points of our public school system as scarcely another man does in Germany; and that he was appointed by, and is a favourite of, Herr von Muhler, I have surely advanced something in justification of my position. The head of the Common Schools' department, Stiehl, deserves a good deal of the abuse that falls on his chief. He, I believe, was the author of what is called the "Regulative" for the common schools—which is the great object of the hostility of the Liberals throughout Prussia. If my impression is correct, he was not appointed by von Muhler. I have never heard any one speak favourably of Stiehl, save in the way of excuse. Naturally, too, very much depends on the subordinates who have the carrying out of instructions; and many of these are narrow-minded enough. I ought to mention also, even at the risk of being somewhat ungallant, that the Minister's wife is reputed to have a good deal to do with the form which some of the measures take that proceed from her husband's department. She is High Church in her sympathies; underlings deem it advantageous to curry favour with her; and to do so they sometimes rather run counter to than carry out the Minister's own intentions.

3. Herr von Muhler's colleagues are mostly far more illiberal than he; and he could not plainly run altogether counter to their ideas. Why he did not give up, if this were the case, is another question. On the whole, I doubt not, their points of view harmonised; but if he had resigned, I question whether a better man would have occupied his place.

4. The Liberal Press of Germany, almost without exception, is hostile to everything that has been commonly considered distinctively Christian. Now as Herr von Muhler is, as I believe, a decided and sincere Lutheran Christian, this alone is sufficient reason in the eyes of the Liberals for treating him as an obscurantist. Most of them either hate, or at all events, despise and make a mock of practical Christian faith; they are unable to understand how an intelligent man can be so infatuated, and naturally, therefore, conclude that he must be either a fool or a knave—generally they assume him to be the latter, if he hold a high and advantageous position. I speak herein from personal observation. Throughout Germany, with rare exceptions, Liberalism and hostility to Christianity, attachment to Christianity and Conservatism, go together. Von Muhler is one of the few on his side who do not, as most of the party do, confound Liberalism in politics with hostility to Christianity. With certain limitations, too, he is not opposed, but favourable to the separation of Church and State. He certainly is not favourable to the exclusion of religious instruction and the Bible from the schools, as the Liberals are; and this is the head and front of his offending.

If he has been set aside for the sake of a "fiddler," all I can say is, it is no credit either to the King of Prussia or to his other Ministers. They have simply played von Muhler a mean trick; and probably some Court intrigue is at the back of it. It would not, however, be out of character; for the present King and Queen, like many of their predecessors—not like the late King—have always been more liberal, generous, and considerate towards "fiddlers," actors, and especially ballet dancers, than to any other class save the military. Trusting you will excuse me for taking up so much of your space with this somewhat irrelevant subject,

I am, yours, &c.,

L. T.

[The report that Herr von Muhler has been dismissed, seems to have been founded on a misconception. He is still Minister of Education.—Ed. Noncon.]

## THE PROPOSED INTERVENTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In your article last week on the proposed increase of our armaments, you are not a moment too soon in grappling with a fallacy which would soon have become a fixed idea for want of ventilation. Our non-interventionists appeared to be napping, until their leader, Earl Derby, gave them the cue the other day at Preston. The following quotation cannot be too often repeated, in the present state of the public mind on the eve of the present session. His lordship says, with his usual reticence, "Everybody is agreed that national defence ought to be made thoroughly effective, there is no question about that, if we mean only defence, let us say so, and stick to that, but if we mean something more, as some of us do, let those who do, acknowledge the fact to themselves, and to all whom it may concern."

Why all this military enthusiasm? The reason why appears a secondary consideration, it is seldom asked, and more seldom answered. The clamourers dare not put the question, and dare not give the answer. The word defence arouses some and silences others. It is the cry, the pretence, by which we allow ourselves to be led, and to look complacently upon a policy, which for defence is not required, but solely needed to make England a great military Power. Fellow-countrymen, beware! Shall our impulses over-come our reason? Let us shake off the delusion, carefully nurtured as religion, that war is a necessity or a Divine dispensation, and look upon war as self-sought, as an impossibility to this country, unless we ourselves assume a hostile attitude.

War is a folly, an absurdity, an outrage to common sense. In olden time, when war was a marauding adventure, and victors revelled in the spoils of the vanquished, adventure and plunder were irresistible attractions. In these days, men signally fail to show either poetry, heroism, or glory, in an affair where the victors themselves return home from their mechanically contrived butcheries to a country ruined and demoralised. Philanthropy is more noble than patriotism. Let our aim be to spread liberty and prosperity equally, abroad and at home.

We are about to legislate upon this momentous question. Shall we aid our peace-loving Premier in resisting a suicidal policy? or shall we play into the hands of a party whose sole object appears to be to impede useful legislation? H. S.

## AN APPEAL FOR THE POOR.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Last year, through the kind assistance of some of your readers, and others, we were able, in connection with our mission work in the low lodging-houses, workhouses, mission-halls, &c. to give free teas and breakfasts, and a substantial treat to the poor paupers (in the workhouses), besides other relief to the very poor and destitute, to about 5,000 of the poorest and most necessitous, at a cost of about 700.

We are anxious to do our part in relieving in this way those now suffering as severely as for several years past, at this inclement season; and now beg to solicit the kind assistance of your numerous readers towards this most charitable object. Donations in any form can be sent to the secretary at the office of the society as under. Parcels of old clothing, tracts and publications are most useful, and are also earnestly solicited; and can be sent to the office. With many thanks,

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

J. ATKINSON, Secretary.

Office, Mission House, 26 Fleming-street, Hoxton, N.

## THE POOR OF CLERKENWELL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Allow me, through your columns, to call your attention to the claims of the Clerkenwell Benevolent Society. Prior to 1860 the large charities of that parish were distributed impartially by the leading parochial officers, to whom the cases of the deserving poor were personally known. In that year, however, a scheme was obtained in the Court of Chancery for their redistribution, by which four-fifths of the amount was diverted from the old channel, and placed in the hands of the district clergy, who made church-going a test of relief. A great hardship was thus inflicted upon the Dissenting and general poor, who were deprived of a relief which had been administered to them from time immemorial. The above institution was founded to meet the case. The watch and jewellery trades have been in a depressed state, and much distress is anticipated in the present winter. The committee comprises leading gentlemen of the parish, and the *bond fides* of every case is strictly investigated. Any donations and subscriptions forwarded to me will be thankfully received on behalf of the committee,

Yours very respectfully,

G. H. WERNER, Hon. Sec.

224, Goswell-road, E.C.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—The directors of the Crystal Palace Company have divided the management of their establishment, vacant by the death of Mr. Bowley, between Mr. Grove and Mr. Wilkinson. Mr. Grove will have the title of "secretary and manager," Mr. Wilkinson that of "manager and general superintendent."

## THE WAR.

## DEFEATS OF GENERAL CHANZY AND FALL OF LE MANS.

There has been a succession of disastrous engagements for the French in the neighbourhood of Le Mans. On the 10th there was a hotly contested but victorious engagement between the Duke of Mecklenburg's corps and part of the Army of the Loire at Lombron and La Chapelle, in which 10,000 prisoners were captured. On the 11th the conflict was renewed, and seven guns and mitrailleuses were taken by the Germans. On the 12th the six days' fighting ended in the capture of Le Mans by the army of Prince Frederick Charles. There was a struggle in the streets. Much rolling stock was taken on the railway, together with vast stores of provisions and materials of all sorts. The result was achieved by a clever combined movement of different corps concentrating on Le Mans. A military correspondent of the *Times* with the Germans telegraphs on the 13th from Le Mans:—"The French are retreating in three different directions. General Chanzy's army is broken up. Nearly 20,000 prisoners have been taken up to this time. The men are very inferior in stature and strength to the Prussian soldiers." The following is the telegraphic report of Field-Marshal Prince Frederick Charles from Le Mans:—"The enemy is retiring partly on Alençon, partly on Laval, pursued by our columns. In the interrupted fighting from the 6th to the 12th alone more than 16,000 unwounded prisoners belonging to General Chanzy's army fell into the hands of the 2nd Army. Twelve guns, including mitrailleuses, were also taken by us, and six locomotives and 200 railway wagons were captured."

General Chanzy has sent the following despatches to the Minister of War at Bordeaux:—"Le Mans, Jan. 12, (8.45 a.m.).—Our positions were good last night, excepting at La Tuilerie, where the Mobiles of Brittany disbanded themselves, thereby causing the abandonment of the positions we occupied on the right bank of the Huisne. Vice-Admiral Jaureguiberry and the other Generals think a retreat is necessary under the circumstances. I resign myself to it very unwillingly. Jan. 12 (5 p.m.).—I have commenced the movement of retreat, which I am organising in such a way as to occupy a new line, in order to reform the army and recommence operations."

The number of prisoners made by the Germans is large, as might be expected, considering the composition of the French Army, but that of the guns captured is not in proportion to it. Chanzy's defeat is complete, but its consequences hardly seem so considerable as they should be. The Bordeaux telegram, which states that his retreat is being effected in good order, is not unlikely to be true in the main. In an army made up as Chanzy's was, there must be many untrained, and therefore unsteady, soldiers ready to be made prisoners upon the slightest pretext; but the three days' persistent fighting on the 10th, 11th, and 12th shows that there must also have been many good ones; and the smallness of the losses of artillery tends to confirm that belief. The Prince states that one body of the enemy is retreating towards Laval, a town due west of Le Mans, in the department of Mayenne, on the road to Rennes. The other portion is said to be retreating on Marcon. If this is the town of that name in the department of the Sarthe, it is in the direction of Tours. The Prince says that the Prussian columns are following them.

There can be no doubt (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*) that the three days' fighting for the possession of Le Mans has ended in the complete success of the German strategy. We say strategy, because the advance of the Prince and the Duke of Mecklenburg was conceived on the strategic principles so often applied by the Prussian staff during this and the Austrian war of making double attacks upon the enemy at right angles to one another, and so causing him to front two ways at once. The Mecklenburg Corps has been making a comparatively circuitous movement by Chartres, so as to descend upon the French from the north and north-east, while the Prince's own immediate command has moved straight across from the Loir at Vendôme, so as to come against Chanzy from the south-east. Against an enemy of superior mobility and equal force this sort of division of the attacking army might be very dangerous; against larger numbers of raw troops, not held in hand, it has the peculiar advantage of appearing to turn their advanced positions constantly, and thus forcing them continually back, so as to attack them finally in their concentrated position with all the prestige of success. The skirmishes of the 8th and 9th soon declared their results in the concentration of the French near Le Mans, and were followed by the series of battles fought on the 10th, 11th, and 12th, with uniform advantage to the assailants. What amount of fighting there may have been on the last of these three days we do not know; but it is evident that on the 10th the French were chiefly occupied to the east and south-east by the Prince's corps, and that on the 11th the Duke of Mecklenburg had got into position on the west side of the Huisne, and attacked the left front of Chanzy's army, which fronted north, with great energy and success. The number of prisoners taken may be slightly overrated, and it may be out of proportion to the slain on the beaten side; but the action was decisive as far as regards the defence of Le Mans, which the French lost next day as their

enemies pressed in upon their real defensive position nearer the city on both its fronts.

The special correspondent of the *Telegraph* with General Chanzy, describes the battle of the 10th. The day was fine but cold. In this action there were 60,000 Prussians, 60,000 French—these were composed of Marines, Mobiles, Eclaireurs, Hussars, Chasseurs, and Dragoons—no Turcos. The French lost four mitrailleuses, eight cannon, about 1,500 *hors de combat*, but no prisoners; the retreat being in good order and by military rule. The Prussians lost 300 prisoners and 3,000 killed, because of their heedless advances on the French artillery. The battle was lost by the wavering of the French Mobiles in a body about noon, and by five o'clock the whole army was in retreat upon Le Mans.

The same writer was present at the engagement of the 11th. He estimates that the Germans brought into action, including reserves, not fewer than 120,000 men, belonging to four or five various army corps; while General Chanzy opposed to them three army corps, nominally of 60,000 each, but perhaps reduced on the average by one-fifth through losses in the fighting which preceded that day's battle, and the peculiar tendency which the new French levies have to melt away without any very obvious or forcible pressure on the part of the enemy. The battle took place about four miles from Le Mans. The correspondent says:—

All around the east side of Le Mans extends a range of lofty woody heights. At the extreme right of the French line was the village of Brette, with a large forest stretching away to the south and east; and in this quarter, where the 16th Corps was posted, a desperate struggle took place under my eyes. The bone of contention was the wood near Brette, the possession of which was evidently esteemed of vital consequence by both parties. I arrived in time to witness the advance of a large body of French troops across the open plain, half a mile broad, to attack the German forces which held the forest. Not fewer than 20,000 men, I should say, took part in this operation; and the movement was made at the double-quick, covered by a powerful fire from the French artillery, which appeared gradually to overmaster, though it did not extinguish, the fire of the Prussian guns. The assault was most courageously made, but the Prussians opposed a solid the bitter resistance. Again and again the dark masses of assailants approached the Prussian line, and I could see the flashes from the enemy's guns against the gloomy background of the forest, within which the enemy was strongly posted. The Prussian resistance was in vain, however; for General Jaureguiberry succeeded, though after a stiff struggle, in dislodging them from the coveted position.

The writer, who dates his letter on the night of the engagement, seems to think that neither side gained any material advantage. He says:—

When darkness put an end to the contest, shortly after five o'clock, the French centre still maintained its ground; and in my hearing General Chanzy gave orders that it should be still further strengthened by bringing up six additional batteries of artillery, which, as I returned to Le Mans, I met upon the road. Chanzy, I may say—and I had a good opportunity of observation—acted throughout the day with great coolness and strong sense; perfectly master of himself and of all the ever-shifting circumstances of a most critical occasion. I should have said that on the extreme left of the French position at Champagne—which of necessity came less under my personal observation—the Germans advanced through a deep and narrow valley between the forests and the river Huisne; and in this quarter alone, as I believe, on the extensive battle-field, which stretched for about twelve miles from south-west to north-east, the French had to give ground, retiring about two miles. When night fell, about a quarter past five, the combat ceased all at once, as if by common consent; leaving the French still in possession of the heights, while the Prussians lay in the woods and the low country beneath.

On the French side the loss in the battle was comparatively slight, but the Prussians, exposed as they were in the valley to the fire of the French guns on the heights, lost much more heavily in proportion. Their casualties cannot be put at less than three thousand or four thousand men. For the day, the enemy certainly cannot be said to have gained any positive advantage.

According to the German report, the 9th Army Corps stormed the heights of Champagne at the point of the bayonet. This was the key of the enemy's position.

## THE BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS.

The Versailles correspondent of the *Times* writes as follows:—"It has been resolved in the highest councils, it is said, to use the full power of the guns against the city itself, not to set it on fire, because that would be hopeless except with a high wind, but to destroy the principal buildings. . . . Count Moltke is determined on getting a few of the principal edifices of which the Parisians are most proud under the fire of his guns, and he will undoubtedly do so, unless the siege works be in some way interrupted or checked." Dr. Russell adds: "I always make these statements under reserve when they are not founded on my personal knowledge." The following extracts from Versailles telegrams will show that Dr. Russell was correct, and will also indicate from a German point of view the progress of the bombardment:—

VERSAILLES, Jan. 9.

To-day fog and snow interfered considerably with the action of the German artillery, and consequently the bombardment of the southern forts was continued with a certain slackness. It is authoritatively stated that five hundred fire-shells were thrown within the *enceinte* of Paris last Sunday night, and also that the Rue St. Jacques was reached, and some of the houses in it set on fire. A new battery which the Germans had erected above Clamart, at a considerable distance in advance of the original position, has been actively engaged in shelling the town, as well as the battery near Bas-Mendon, which faces the French works within twelve

hundred yards. Not more than five batteries, or six at the most, of the besiegers' guns can touch Paris; and that only when the pieces are given a very great elevation. Yesterday Fort Issy was silent, while Montrouge was very active, and Vanvres emitted only a dropping and irregular fire. The northern forts also gave forth only a dropping fire, and the north-eastern forts continued their silence. The Palace of the Luxembourg is reported to have been on fire on Sunday night.

VERSAILLES, Jan. 10.

During Sunday night not only shells, but also rockets, were fired from the German batteries into Paris. The bombardment of that city, as well as the circumjacent forts and outworks, is now an officially recognised proceeding, and the attack is ordered to be carried on without intermission. The active prosecution of the siege operations has been placed absolutely under the direction of the chief of artillery, who is virtually independent of the field-marshal commanding-in-chief the armies of investment. All the batteries, whether of siege guns, mortars, or rockets, are supplied with ammunition for eighteen days. All the scientific officers count upon the surrender of the city before that supply shall have been exhausted; but, at the present rate of firing, the ammunition already provided in the batteries would last for a month, and additional large quantities are constantly being brought up.

Yesterday there was a heavy snowfall—the heaviest we have yet had—which interfered with the prosecution of bombardment during daylight; and consequently the firing was slack. The front actually under attack consists of about a quarter of the *enceinte*, or twenty-three bastions, mounting in all 600 guns. The heaviest French guns are mounted at Montmartre. There are few monster pieces, excepting those on Mont Valérien, on this side of the defences. Fort Issy has been much damaged internally, and on Fort Montrouge the barracks and buildings within the ramparts have been burned down.

It is intended to destroy the Hotel de Ville, the Invalides, and the Luxembourg Palace. Next Sunday night, 10,000 incendiary shells will be thrown into Paris.

On the night of the 8th, eighty-six Germans captured, by a *coup de main*, the French battery Notre Dame de Clamart, situated on the left bank of the railway line, about 1,700 yards in advance of any position hitherto taken by the Prussians on this side of Paris. The guns of the work were immediately turned upon Fort Issy, and a smart fire was opened, which did most of the damage sustained by that fort.

Jan. 10 (2 p.m.)

Paris was on fire in several places during last night. About ten p.m., and for two hours afterwards, a brisk fire was maintained against the burning portions of the city, which served as excellent marks for the gunners on the southern and south-western batteries. The fire recommenced about midnight, and was taken up at intervals throughout the night. It still continues, although not very heavily. The advanced battery near Clamart has opened fire. It has a range of one mile further into the city than the other Prussian works in this quarter.

VERSAILLES, Jan. 11.

During the night of Monday the Germans on the south side of Paris pushed forward their front to the Val de Meudon and Moulinsaux. They met with some opposition at the Val, but succeeded in establishing and holding their positions. Five men were wounded. Paris during the night was bombarded with incendiary shells.

Early in the morning of yesterday the French made a determined attack upon the newly acquired battery of Notre-Dame de Clamart, taken from them by surprise a day or two ago. They penetrated into the work, and a sharp struggle ensued, in which the French employed the bayonet. They were driven out, however, by the 6th Bavarians. One Bavarian officer was brought in bayoneted—being the first officer who has been wounded with that arm since the war began.

About noon yesterday a sortie on a small scale was made from St. Denis, under the personal superintendence of General Trochu himself. The attack of the French, however, was repulsed with slight effort, and still slighter loss, on the German side. This morning a more important sortie, in force, was made from Fort Vanvres, between Clamart and Chatillon. The encounter between the sortie force and the besiegers was vigorous, and even fierce; but in the end the French troops were driven back almost to the glacis of the fort.

There has been heavy and sustained firing to-day. The south-west batteries of the Germans were extraordinarily active, and the French forts replied with much briskness. A vigorous cannonade was also kept up from the *emplacements* between the forts, and the French 32-pounders on the ramparts of the *enceinte* were very busy all the morning. At the same time, Mont Valérien directed a rapid fire of large shells upon Bougival, Vauresson, and—with especial severity—on Ville d'Avray and Sèvres. The weather has changed again to hard frost, and the roads are almost impracticable.

1.30 p.m.

The bombardment is now proceeding with unprecedented vigour. The fire is absolutely incessant from twenty-one German batteries. The French are replying all along the line, and making infantry attempts of the most frantic character to turn the batteries. Three new batteries opened at Meudon this morning.

Jan. 12 (2 p.m.)

The heaviest firing which has occurred since the commencement of the actual attack upon Paris is now going forward, principally against Fort Montrouge. The bombardment has been maintained absolutely without intermission for the last twelve hours.

Jan. 13.

The bombardment here, owing to fog, has for three days progressed but slowly. Yesterday and to-day, however, there was much firing, especially from the *enceinte* of the city, whence the enemy's fire is constantly becoming warmer. To-day there is sunshine and a wintry day, with two degrees (Reaumur) of frost. One cannot, however, see things at any distance.

VERSAILLES, Jan. 13.

The fire of the besiegers is not quite so heavy to-day, but still vigorous. The French works, it is thought, are much damaged, as their reply is more feeble. The German loss in the batteries is officially reported to be very slight. Very few German guns have been dismounted by the French, and the bombardment altogether is successful. If the Germans wish to profit by the first mild weather to prosecute their works

actively against the southern forts, there would be no serious obstacle.

Although several shells have flown far beyond the ramparts, and although the besiegers vaguely believe that Paris has been startled by these terrible visitors in the most fashionable quarters, I cannot say for certain whether any such hits have been made. It is the wish of the soldiers to shell the city itself.

Another account says:—"The burning of Issy and Montrouge barracks is very inconvenient for the garrison, but they must have expected it. Such barracks in such forts are like trusses of hay on the deck of a fighting ship. 'The Germans are said to have opened their first parallel against Issy, and mean to take all the southern works in regular fashion. If so, the hard frost is against them.'"

A night exploration towards Valérien has revealed the fact that the French were sapping down towards St. Cloud, much nearer than was supposed by the Germans, and counter approaches will bring the enemies close together. On the night of the 9th and the night before there was a constant rifle fire along the line of outposts, as the French patrols came tapping their way and reconnoitring for a weak place. There is not, however, much chance of their finding one.

A telegram of the 12th says that some positions in front of Clamart and Meudon have been occupied by the Prussians, and that the French have unmasked new batteries. On the same day a rain of shells fell upon Paris.

The *Times* correspondent says:—"When Valérien is busy the other forts are comparatively silent. When Issy, Vanvres, and Montrouge are talking, Valérien shuts up—and so on all round. As long as the *Chemin de Fer de Ceinture* was working that was an easy matter—the men could be shifted readily from place to place. Now that the arches, though not down, are rendered unsafe, the railway is used no longer, and the transfer of gunners from point to point must be rendered difficult. If the theory be sound, here is another complication for the defence."

#### INSIDE PARIS.

A protest has been addressed to the foreign Powers by the French Government against the bombardment of Paris. The protest states that shells appear to have been wantonly fired against hospitals, churches, schools, and prisons, thus making numerous victims of innocent women and children. A besieger, it is added, is bound to announce beforehand his intention to bombard, in order to give time for non-combatants to be removed. The Government of the National Defence protests against the military action now being taken by the Germans, as a useless act of barbarism, and shares the sentiments of the inhabitants, who, so far from being depressed by this violence, have derived fresh strength from it. The doctors of the hospitals in Paris have signed another protest against the bombardment as a violation of the Geneva Convention.

A letter from Paris says that the partisans of the Commune are growing bolder in speech than they have been since the failure of their attempt on the 31st of October. As to action, they are evidently biding their opportunity. For the present, they appear to have given up all idea of open hostilities against the Government, but to be trying to effect, so to speak, a side entrance into power. The twenty Mayors of Paris, with their sixty Deputy-Mayors, claim now to give their opinion on political and even military matters, which certainly do not lie within their province. This is, in fact, introducing the thin edge of the wedge of a Municipal Government of Paris—in other words, a Commune—into the councils of the Government of National Defence. Unfortunately, our rulers in this as in other matters have shown a want of firmness, and have consented to a weekly meeting of the Mayors under the presidency of M. Jules Ferry, the member of the Government more especially entrusted with the central administration of the town—a sort of Prefect of the Seine without the title.

The following are extracts from recent letters by balloon post:—

#### HOW LONG CAN PARIS HOLD OUT?

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on the 6th, says:—"When I last wrote to you on this subject I stated that Paris could hold out certainly to the 1st of February, and probably for a longer period. But I think I may now say with tolerable certainty that Paris is good for the 1st of March. It is beyond all expectation, and I confess I am surprised—but it is no more than members of the Government have again and again predicted in my hearing for many weeks past. I acknowledge to have had my doubts. I thought they were too sanguine, and I have been anxious to understate the truth. But, now, what do I find? It is the 6th of January—that is, exactly a fortnight from the furthest day, the 20th of January, to which the croakers assert with a dogmatism which shuts up all discussion that the endurance of Paris can extend. I go to men who ought to be the best informed in Paris. I cannot mention names—but they ought to know. I say to them, 'How long? I am told that the 20th of January is your last day: you must surrender. Tell me truly.' The reply is, 'I tell you truly, we can stand out till March.' 'And there is no chance of a capitulation in the present month?' 'Not the least in the world from famine. We are badly off, but we can endure. Who is it that gives you the 20th of January as the last day?' 'I cannot tell you; but I do not mind telling you this—that those who put your last day at the 20th of January declare that if you can hold out till March the Prussians will be knocked up as high as a kite.' He replied, 'It is perfectly certain that we can hold out till March. I have always told you so. We can go well into March. But say the 1st of March; it

is enough.' The news seems almost too good to be true; but I will state to you privately my authority, and you can judge for yourself as to its credibility."

The correspondent of the *Times*, under date Jan. 4th, says:—"At present Paris suffers much more from want of fuel than from want of food. Bread is good and wholesome, though not white, and is not allowed, and there are still plenty of horses to eat; but wood, even green wood, is scarcely to be had. Coals belong to an extinct period, and are not to be thought of. Government is cutting down wood at Vincennes and the Bois de Boulogne very fast, but too late. As to food, from all I can gather from competent authorities, we have horseflesh, bread, and wine up to the end of the first week in February; and we may go on till the 1st of March if we eat up the horses of the cavalry and artillery, and make bread out of the oats which should have fed them. This calculation makes no allowance for the reserve of food which will be required after the gates are open, and before Paris can be reinvigorated."

The correspondent of the *Daily News* with the Crown Prince of Prussia says:—"It is the wish of the soldiers to shell the city itself. The bombardment of the forts, and the comparative silencing of the French, encourage the men, who are convinced that the end is close. They do not sufficiently allow for the urgent political reasons which will make the French resist to the very last. General Trochu is likely to make a four months' defence, and struggle into the fifth at any sacrifice. No doubt the bread supply will hold out till February."

#### INCIDENTS OF THE BOMBARDMENT.

The *Daily Telegraph* thus summarises in a leading article some of the terrible results of the fire of the German batteries upon Paris and its population:—

"None the less horrible are the incidents of the bombardment. Day and night shells are raining over the streets. Bombs of enormous size are falling in crowded parts of the city. Destruction menaces the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Hotel de Ville, the College de Sorbonne, the Hotel des Invalides, and a crowd of other buildings which belong to the human race rather than to the inhabitants of Paris. Last week twenty shells fell within a few hours into the Garden and the Museum of the Luxembourg, obliging the authorities to remove an ambulance which had been erected in the grounds, and destroying the masterpieces of modern art which crowded the galleries. The artistic and scientific treasures of centuries may be given to the flames. A single shell may do such havoc as the Huxleys and the Landseers of France will deem irreparable. A few weeks hence large parts of Paris may be heaps of blackened ruins. Meanwhile, the beggars are spreading death through the devoted city. Women have been killed in the streets and in their beds; infants have been struck dead while sleeping in their mothers' arms. Four children were killed, and five were wounded, by a single shell. Wounded men have been slain as they lay helpless on their couches. And, while the projectiles are raining death on the streets, hunger and disease are smiting down thousands, and the multitude of children's funerals tell, with terrible eloquence, on whom it is that the perils of the siege are falling most fatally. Paris is rapidly gathering the lineaments of a plague-stricken city. And how is she bearing her terrible afflictions? She is belying all the predictions of those who knew her best. The idea that Paris the frivolous, Paris the luxurious, Paris the most enervated of great cities, would submit to cold, and hunger, and death, rather than open her gates, was scouted as ridiculous. Our special correspondent has talked again and again with women whose homes are hourly exposed to the bombs, and who showed him the holes in which the missiles had buried themselves. From all, he says, has come the same answer: 'We may be killed, but that is of little account. Only let Paris hold firm until *La France* shall come to the rescue.' Alas! that is what *La France* seems utterly unable to do."

The "Besieged Resident," in one of his letters to the *Daily News*, says:—"For the object which the Prussians have in view, the prodigious cannonade with which Paris has been visited might as well have been a salvo of champagne bottles. The only practical result of the bombardment which I can find is one jest the more for the little boys of Paris. When they see a man or woman particularly well dressed—say a man glorious in furs that argue an extraordinary care of his person, they cry out, 'Flat, flat! a shell—a shell—a plat ventre! Down on your faces.' The man, gorgeous in fur, falls flat on the ground—perhaps in the gutter—and the Parisian utters a rejoicing with exceeding great joy. The effect of the fire even on the Fort of Vanvres, which has had to bear the chief assault, has been insignificant as yet. The shells have burst upon the gardens of the Luxembourg, upon the Invalides, upon the Observatory, upon the boulevard and street which take their name from the hottest of all hot places—the Boulevard d'Enfer. But most of all they seem to converge upon the Pantheon, for it appears that the Prussians have an idea that here is a powder magazine. There is not a grain of powder in the Pantheon—only hundreds of women and scores of men, praying to Sainte-Genevieve to save Paris—though the blessed virgin of Nanterre seems to hear them not. This quarter of the town begins to be deserted, for it is dangerous. A cantinière is in her bed, sound asleep, and dreaming, doubtless, of her gallant regiment; a shell kills her in her sleep. A dozen people are drinking in a cabaret; a shell comes to scatter them. A mother is sitting at table with her two daughters; a shell smashes into the room, but does them no harm. In a house hard by it bursts on two babies in their cradles; the mother rushes in terror-stricken, and swoons with joy to find that her babies are unhurt. In one of the houses some

soldiers are cooking their dinner; a shell comes tumbling in the pot, and the dinner is dissipated, but the soldiers are untouched. In another place a celebrated painter is working at his easel; a shell plunges into his studio, destroys his pictures, but does him no bodily harm. A cab jogs along the streets in the lazy fashion peculiar to French cabs. It contains two ladies, and if the coachman had been a little more active it need not now be recorded that one was killed and the other only frightened. Frightened! People may well be frightened at such personal experiences; but Paris, nevertheless, is comparatively indifferent, and the psychological moment is not come nor is it at hand. So much life has been destroyed that a few lives more or less can make no great difference; and so much property—valuable property—has suffered destruction around Paris that more waste and destruction can produce little effect. We have become seasoned to suffering—hardened; and, like the dyer's hand, subdued to what it works in."

#### THE EFFECT OF SHELLING PARIS ON THE POPULATION.

The Paris correspondent of the *Telegraph* says, in a letter of the 10th:—"After walking for many hours to-day among the inhabitants of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Arrondissements, into which during the whole of last night the iron projectiles fell like snow-flakes, I have found not the slightest disposition towards terror or submission. I conversed again and again with women who were living in houses over which some hundreds of shells have already passed, and who in some instances showed the great craters or holes produced by shells that had fallen and buried themselves in their gardens. From all came the same answer, 'We may be killed, but that is of little account. Only let Paris hold firm until *La France* has come to her rescue!' I had some apprehensions that towards the end of the present month our provisions would have been exhausted; but, in the present temper of our population, I believe and expect that Paris will endure, and endure cheerfully, such hardships and privations as were never before experienced by a city of the same magnitude."

In a letter of the 11th the special correspondent of the *Daily News* remarks:—"As for the shelling of the forts, the result is a very farce. An officer of the *Francs-tireurs*, who appears to have had nothing else to do, took the trouble to count the shells at Corneuve on Sunday last. He counted 2,081. The result was not a man killed and not a man wounded. There is a tradition in the British Army that in the old days of Brown Bess, to kill one man took another man's weight in lead expended in shot. Weigh these 2,081 shells, and think of the waste of strength ending in no result whatever. It is not indeed to be supposed that the result is nothing on all sides. The shells falling on the south side of Paris have produced a number of wounds, and not a few deaths. Six children, the night before last, were killed in their little beds. And the wounded in the Hospital of Val de Grâce, and in other hospitals, have suffered a good deal. But what is the real effect of such wanton destruction? Does it make Paris more accessible to the enemy? Does it make the population quail? It would be impossible for any people in the world to take the bombardment of their chief city more coolly. They look on as at a spectacle provided for their entertainment, and they pick up the exploded shells to stow them away in their cabinets of curiosities. I went again yesterday to the church of St. Etienne du Mont—that is by rights the church of Sainte-Geneviève, of Paris, which is full of devotees praying to the patron saint of Paris for salvation. The prayers began on the 3rd of the present month, and will continue till the 12th. There was a grand illumination of candles—the worshippers were on their knees in earnest supplication—'Holy Sainte-Geneviève, pray for us!' Suddenly a shell burst upon the church with a tremendous detonation. I could not help giving a start—but the worshippers seemed to be unmoved, and the chanting of the litany to the Lady Geneviève, who had saved Paris in days of yore from the hosts of Attila, went on with imperturbable smoothness. The only strong feeling which the bombardment excites is indignation?"

#### THE CONFLICT IN THE NORTH.

Peronne, a fortified town on the river Somme, capitulated on the 10th to the Germans. The garrison, 3,000 strong, surrendered themselves as prisoners of war.

The German Northern Army near Amiens has been placed under the sole command of General Von Goeben.

Faidherbe, with his Army of the North, is again moving, but only slowly. On Saturday the vanguard of his army occupied Albert, and was to continue its march yesterday. General Von Goeben's position is not exactly known, but he must attempt to arrest Faidherbe's march upon Amiens. He is now stronger than when he fought the battle of Bapaume, having with him the division which took Peronne. On the other hand, Faidherbe has received reinforcements, principally from Cherbourg, whence troops have been sent to him by sea to Calais.

We have at last on the 3rd an independent account of the battle of Bapaume. The German army engaged consisted of only 10,000 infantry and eighty-four field pieces, whilst the French force numbered at least 30,000 men and sixty pieces of cannon. The battle was stubbornly contested, but, as we know, the Germans were not driven out of Bapaume, and yet so exhausted were the two armies that orders were simultaneously issued for a retreat. After the German order had been issued, it was discovered that the French had retired to their old positions, and Bapaume was therefore occupied until the following day, when the troops fell back to Comperre.

General Faidherbe was ignorant of the advantage which was within his grasp, and he lost an opportunity which he may never have again. Had he held his position till the morning of the 4th, he would undoubtedly have occupied Bapaume, and almost as certainly have saved Peronne. Since the latter place, abandoned to its fate, is now in Goeben's hands, that general has withdrawn from Bapaume, opening a new line of supplies to Laon.

Notice of the intention of the Germans to bombard Longwy has been sent into the town. On Sunday the Prussians blew up the railway bridge over the Chiers, on the line from Longwy to Arlon in Belgium. Troops and guns are being concentrated for the bombardment of Longwy. The women, children, and old men have in consequence received orders to leave. The commandant of the fort of Charlemont, which commands Givet, has likewise resolved not to surrender. It is said that the Prussians are turning the left wing of the French army and threatening Cambrai, whilst the Belgian Government, believing that the French will shortly be attacked in force, are concentrating large bodies of troops upon the frontier, to prevent any breach of their neutrality.

The Prussian corps in Normandy appears to have been chiefly occupied in making requisitions. The affair on Saturday, near Bolbec, seems to have been only a skirmish. The Bordeaux Government has sent M. Carnot as Extraordinary Commissioner to the departments of the Seine Inférieure, Eure, and Calvados.

#### THE CAMPAIGN IN THE EAST.

Bourbaki and Von Werder have fought a three days' battle in the vicinity of Belfort—the fighting on Sunday having been resumed on Monday and continued yesterday. The opposing Generals each claim a success; but the balance of evidence seems to incline in favour of the Germans. A Bordeaux despatch tells us that Bourbaki fought all day on Sunday, and occupied Montbéliard on the right and several villages on the left of the road to Belfort, which is blocked by the army of Von Werder, covering the siege of that fortress by the division of General Treaskow. Bourbaki himself, reporting on the night of the 15th, does not very confidently assert that the advantage lay upon his side; but so much is certainly implied in his statement that he obtained possession of certain villages, and his expression of a hope that he might next day be able to gain ground still and to advance. Plainly, however, he did not look on his task with sanguine assurance of success, for he speaks of the very large forces of men and the powerful artillery opposed to him. On the other hand, the German reports claim for Von Werder nothing more than the maintenance of his positions in front of Belfort, against repeated and violent attacks of the enemy, during both Sunday and Monday; and of the third day's fighting we do not yet know the result, having only the statement of the officer in command of the Swiss troops watching the frontier, that a conflict raged all yesterday along the whole line. On the present occasion, the French have adopted the offensive tactics by the use of which they have been wont in former times to win; but the resistance of the Germans, aided by the nature of the country, and continued over three livelong days, has so far given them the real success—since Bourbaki fights to liberate Belfort, and open up the roads to the North or to the Rhine, both of which aims are frustrated by Werder's obstinate refusal to withdraw.

#### COUNT BISMARCK ON THE ALLEGED PRUSSIAN EXCESSES.

Count Bismark, in his reply to the charges which Count Ohaudordy made against the German armies for their cruelty and oppression to the civil inhabitants of France, does not specifically deny the allegations of the French delegate. He appeals to the well-known character of the Germans for education and culture, and the testimony of the correspondents of the European and American press who have accompanied the German troops as to their humanity. He then launches into a long series of recriminations against the French. On twenty-one different occasions (as shown in the Appendix), which preclude the supposition of accident or mistake on the part of the French troops, flags of truce have been fired upon which were accompanied by a trumpeter sounding his bugle. The French have also been guilty of using explosive bullets, and a ball is now on view at the Foreign Office, Berlin, composed of sixteen-edged segments, tantamount to chipped lead. At sea the French have burned and scuttled German merchantmen on the high seas, and ill-used the crews. The treatment of German prisoners in France has also been very bad, and the French have failed to fulfil the obligations of the Geneva Convention as regards the sick and wounded, while the Germans have done everything to uphold it, even admitting French military surgeons to their headquarters, and delegates to the prisoners in Germany, the result being treacherous designs on the part of the latter. Moreover, the French authorities have encouraged faithlessness, and all kinds of violations of military usage and honour. Count Bismark then goes on to say:—

A Government which calculated upon remaining at the head of the nation under ordinary conditions would scout the adoption of such measures in the interest of the future of its country. But the dictatorship which has assumed power in France by a *coup de main*, and which is neither acknowledged by the European Powers nor by the French people, only considers the future of the country in proportion to its own interests and passions. The rulers in Paris and Bordeaux suppress the loudly uttered desire of the people for an expression of its will as forcibly as every other free utterance of opinion by word or letter. By means of a reign of

terror so arbitrary as to be impossible in any other European country they extort from the people their money and their means to carry on the conflict, because they foresee that its end will likewise be that of their usurpation. . . . If it were the intention of the French rulers not to increase the hate of the two belligerent nations, but to facilitate the restoration of peace, they would afford the French people the possibility of hearing the truth and of expressing its opinions by the infallible method of a free press, and they would hasten to share with representatives of the nation the responsibility at present resting upon them alone. Instead of that, we see that the press in France, as a monopoly of a despotic Government, is only used to misrepresent events, falsify the state of affairs, and make political capital out of the popular prejudices which public education in France has systematically created among Frenchmen respecting their superiority and their claims to dominate over other countries. The Government of the National Defence rouses the passions of the people without making any effort to restrain them within the bounds of civilisation and international law. It does not wish for peace, for by its language and attitude it deprives itself of the power to make peace accepted, even if it so desired, in face of the feeling which it has created among the masses. It has unchained forces which it knows not how to dominate or to keep within the limits of international law and European military usage. If in view of this state of things we are forced to exercise the rights of war with a severity which we regret, and which appertains neither to the German national character nor to our traditions, as is proved by the wars of 1864 and 1866, the responsibility thereof falls upon those persons who, without call or justification, have undertaken and forced upon the French people the continuance of the Napoleonic war against Germany, while casting aside the traditions of European warfare.

#### OUR WORKING MEN AND THE WAR.

A crowded meeting, composed, it is stated, mainly of working men, was held on the 10th in St. James's Hall, under the presidency of Professor Beesly, for the purpose of "calling upon the Government to recognise the French Republic and to resist the policy of territorial spoliation" now pursued by Germany. The principal speakers were the chairman, Mr. Odger, Mr. George Howell, Mr. Frederic Harrison, Captain Maxse, and Mr. Bradlaugh. The resolutions adopted expressed sympathy with France in her struggle against foreign invasion, condemned Mr. Gladstone for refusing to recognise the French Republic and for "compromising the honour and safety of this country by the vacillation and feebleness of his foreign policy," and urged upon the Government the necessity of ascertaining officially from Germany the terms upon which she will conclude peace, and in the event of her insisting on the dismemberment of France, calling upon the neutral Powers to unite with England in resisting it. The meeting was not unanimous. The chairman declared that about 100 hands were held up against the resolution censuring Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Frederic Harrison provoked some uproar by an attack on the "peace-at-any-price party," who he declared were now only supported by "a few psalm-singing fanatics." Several amendments were also submitted. One of them characterised an appeal to the Government as idle, and suggested that a committee should be forthwith appointed to organise an army of 20,000 men to assist General Garibaldi. This proposal was ruled to be irregular. Another amendment suggested that all who voted for the motion in favour of intervention should go to the front. A third submitted that it was impolitic to plunge into war, but suggested that we should withhold commercial relations with Prussia, stop the pay of German princes, and permit all Englishmen who wished to join the French army. A fourth amendment, which was moved by Mr. Lucraft, proposed the omission of the paragraph relating to intervention. He said it was precisely because he desired to see a Republic established in France that he did not wish England to go to war, and he did not, moreover, believe that this country or the other neutral Powers would consent to go to war to set up a Republic in France. The amendment was, however, so badly received that Mr. Lucraft withdrew it, intimating that a meeting would be held to test the feeling of the working men of London on the question of "peace and war."

The Council of the Workmen's National Peace Society have issued a number of "Questions for the working men of Great Britain to ask themselves before they vote at public meetings in favour of a war policy to assist France." They are as follows:—"1. Is not our excessive taxation the main cause why foreign nations, whose taxation is so much lighter, are driving us from the markets of the world? 2. What has caused our heavy taxation and National Debt but the ruinous and foolish wars which past British Governments waged? 3. Do you want to increase our load of taxation and the National Debt? 4. Are the different nations for whom we fought and spent such enormous sums grateful to us for our doings? 5. Was liberty or industry in any way benefited by our past wars? 6. Did any British Government ever go to war for liberty? and if they never have, is it likely they will begin to do so now? 7. Is it likely that our Government, aristocratic in its composition, character, and sympathies, if it declared war, would do so to assist in any way a democratic Government in France? 8. Is it likely that the British army, officered by sons of the British aristocracy, would be found fighting for French democracy? 9. Is it not probable that, if England joined France, Russia would join Germany, and that all Europe would become involved in a general war, which the present generation might not see the end of? 10. Would not a war in which England was engaged afford the discontented spirits in America an opportunity of

fitting out a number of Alabamas as a retaliation for our conduct during their war, to prey on our commerce, cripple our industry, and starve our people, possibly also bringing us into conflict with our American brethren? 11. Is it not likely that the war will sooner end if it is confined to France and Germany than if we mix ourselves up in the quarrel? 12. If the Government declared war, would not the working classes, who do not want war, have to do the fighting, and, in addition, have to pay for the war? 13. Ought not those who are trying to drag us into a war, and want working men to go and fight the Germans, to set the example by going to fight themselves? 14. If, as they say, talking is of little use unless it is followed up by blows, why don't they go and help to deal those blows, instead of trying to get others who do not want to fight to do it for them? 15. If, as is asserted, Bismark is prolonging the war so as to destroy the Republic, is it not advisable that the French Government and the people stop the war, make the best possible peace, and so cheat Bismark of his prey? A meeting of working men, in opposition to the war policy advocated at the meeting in St. James's Hall on Tuesday last, is being convened by the Workmen's National Peace Association.

#### NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

Two contracts for shoes for the French army are now in course of execution at Ipswich. The first contract comprises 20,000 pairs, and the second 30,000 pairs.

It is stated that Count Bismark has proposed that the Duchy of Luxembourg should authorise the consul of the North German Confederation to act as mediator between the two Governments.

The *Echo* has received from high authority the following report of a recent conversation with Count Moltke at Versailles:—"The Count remarked that the French had fought much better and had made far stronger resistance than he had expected from them. But that he regarded further fighting as vain, and worse than useless. He added for himself he should be extremely sorry to have upon him the responsibility which M. Gambetta had assumed in regard to the continuance of the war; that the French were fighting and sacrificing life for the impossible. He considered it as mere murder."

According to the letter of a Bavarian engineer soldier before Paris, a subterranean telegraph was recently discovered between Forts Vanvres and Issy. He was digging a rifle pit when he found, at a depth of about eighteen inches, a cable resembling those laid across the Atlantic. In the centre were seven copper wires surrounded by india-rubber, with a coating of iron wires, hemp, and thin cord.

The anti-German element in Alsace, says a Strasbourg letter in the *Carlsruhe Gazette*, is thinking of emigration into the interior of France. Former French officials, Chauvinist agitators, and other opponents of Germanism are daily leaving, *via* Strasbourg and Nancy, whereby Alsace is purified from *willichthum*. The vacancies are speedily supplied by German immigrants, who are already beginning to feel at home in the new Imperial province.

The device proposed for General Moltke's patent, on his being created a Count, was, according to a Berlin paper, "Echt und recht bei Rath und That"—"Honest and right in counsel and action." The King, however, altered it to "Erst wägen, dann wagen"—"First consider, then venture;" or, to keep the play on the two words *wägen* and *wagen*—"First weigh, then up and away."

If I were asked (says Dr. Russell in one of his letters from Versailles) why the Prussians had beaten the French in this great war, I should answer that I thought they had done so because they had better heads, arms, and legs than the French. If I were asked whether I thought the Prussians could lose that superiority, I should say that they might if they remained too long in France.

Reports have reached Versailles that batteries of artillery, complete in all respects, and actually horsed and harnessed, have been landed in France from England. The stories are believed, and (Dr. Russell says) have caused much bitterness.

There is now great activity in the Birmingham military gun trade, and from 6,000 to 7,000 rifles of all kinds are turned out every week.

The German troops, according to a Berlin paper, now occupy, not partially but completely, thirty-two of the eighty-six French Departments, comprising 16,000 communes. They exercise in these all civil and military powers, control the posts, telegraphs, and railways, and regularly collect the taxes.

Another official list of fugitive French officers has been issued at Berlin. It comprises twenty-eight names—viz., one lieutenant-colonel, one chief of a battalion, seven captains, fourteen lieutenants, and five sub-lieutenants. In three of these cases the attempt was frustrated. The total number of officers who have violated their parole in North Germany alone is now 105.

It is stated in a telegram from Versailles that M. Gambetta was present at the battle near Le Mans, and saved himself by an early flight.

The Comte de Chambord has published a protest against the bombardment of Paris, in which he says, "No, I will not see that great city perish, which each one of my ancestors has called, 'My beautiful city of Paris.' And since I can do no more, I will raise my voice in exile to protest against the ruin of my country."

Colonel Charette, who was reported to have died of his wounds, has turned up alive and convalescent. He was taken prisoner by the Prussians, but as soon as he was able to move he made his escape, and has reached Le Mans. M. Gambetta has given him a general's commission.

It is stated that the French Government have decided that the Bank of France shall issue notes with forced currency to the amount of 1,500,000*l.* on the security of woods and forests.

While the North German Democrats oppose the war on account of its being carried on against a Republican Government, the South German Ultramontanes are equally opposed to it on account of its having led to the unity of Germany under a Protestant emperor. The *Vaterland* of Munich advises the King of Bavaria to withdraw his troops and conclude a separate peace.

A correspondent of the *Scotsman* writes:—"It is worthy of remark that in the last numbers of the *Kladderadatsch*, the *Berlin Punch*, the rhyme with which every number opens points strongly to the desire of the German people for peace. That this sentiment is growing is acknowledged by every one who has the means of feeling the public pulse of Germany."

The new and imperfectly-trained soldiers of the French armies are said to be much discouraged by the range and tremendous effect of the Prussian artillery. Officers who have been wounded have declared that they had never seen a Prussian soldier, except imperfectly, at a distance, through their field-glasses.

A letter from Bordeaux, dated the 9th, says:—"The new balloon, with which M. Wilfred de Fonvielle proposes to get into Paris, has been manufactured in Bordeaux, and is now completed. M. Brunel, an associate in the enterprise, will pack it up and sail with it for London to-morrow, and then, with as little loss of time as possible, the two aeronauts will arrange to start from a point which, of course, is kept secret. Like all inventors they express the utmost confidence of success."

General Vinoy reviewed the French troops outside of Paris a day or two since. While he was riding along the line, the soldiers cried out, "*La paix!*" to which he replied, "*Au contraire, je vais vous conduire au feu!*"

The British Workman Relief Fund Committee (of which Lord Shaftesbury is the President) have this week paid over to the committee of the Society of Friends, for the distressed French peasants, the sum of 250*l.*—viz., 50*l.* for Bitsche, and 200*l.* for Phalsbourg.

The Jesuits are said to be very popular inside Paris, having thrown themselves heartily into the defence of the city.

A pigeon which recently reached Paris brought despatches for the Government, which when printed filled three or four columns of a newspaper, besides 15,000 private despatches. All this news had been reduced to such microscopic size that it was conveyed in a small quill delicately attached to the bird's feathers.

The famous second column of the *Times* is now chiefly occupied with advertisement messages intended for besieged residents in Paris. They are mostly of a cheering tone:—"Everybody is well, the boys are working hard, the girls are under the kindest care, somebody has had a new baby, and the conditions are perfectly delightful, money can be had on application to a given address, the balloon letters have been received and more are desired," and so forth. Latterly more than two columns—in one case four—have been taken up by these announcements, and in many instances Mr. Washburne, the American Minister, is charged with their delivery.

Count Von Moltke, one day last week, while returning to Versailles from the German batteries on the south-west, had a very narrow escape for his life. A shell burst close to his carriage, and its explosion covered with mud and ice and hard fragments of frozen earth the general himself, his aides-de-camp, horses, drivers, &c.—without, however, doing any harm to anybody.

#### EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

**FOOD PRICES IN PARIS.**—Just before Christmas cats commenced to disappear from the shops which ordinarily sold them, and it is supposed that at the present time nearly the whole of these domestic pets are eaten. Possibly on the principle of killing off the horses that they may not consume the oats, on which we shall soon be constrained to live ourselves, the cats have been sacrificed to conserve our few remaining rats and mice. Dog, however, is still on sale at from 2*l.* to 3*l.* the pound, and poultry can be obtained by those who are prepared to pay exorbitant prices for it, such as 100*l.* for a turkey, 60*l.* for a goose, and 25*l.* for a fowl. Eggs sold wholesale by auction rather more than a week ago realised a trifle over a franc apiece; their retail price is a franc and a half, and even at this figure the soundness of the article is not guaranteed. Salt costs a franc and a half per lb., while coffee and sugar have only risen about 50 per cent., and jam has not advanced at all in price. Carrots and turnips range from 50 centimes to a franc each; onions are retailed at the rate of 20*l.* the gallon, and potatoes at the unheard-of price of 50*l.* the bushel. We are consoled, however, by assurances that these prices are not likely to increase but rather to diminish, as the vegetables ordered to be raised in the outskirts of Paris at the commencement of the siege in accordance with the forcing system of MM. Joigneux and Oertel, will shortly be brought to market. Ever since the investment the price of fish has steadily risen until attaining a rate equivalent to from 7*l.* to 8*l.* per lb. Recently, however, unlike most other luxuries, the price has diminished, and to-day it has dropped to 5*l.* The result is due to the "Compagnie des Mariniers-sauveteurs" of the Seine, who have a double mission in connection with the defence of Paris. At one time they are employed in bridging the Marne, as on the occasion

of the recent sorties, and at others devote themselves to catching fish for the hospitals, ambulances, and markets. Originally they caught only a limited quantity, but since they have been furnished with proper nets they haul in about 800*lb.* daily. These improvised fishermen each receive a couple of francs and a pint and three-quarters of wine per day. Of the fish caught by them a certain quantity is distributed to the hospitals and ambulances, while the residue is put up to sale by auction at the Halles, the proceeds resulting from which, ranging from five to fifteen hundred francs per day, are paid over to the authorities.—*Letter from Paris.*

**PARIS UNDER THE EMPIRE.**—The "Besieged Resident of the *Daily News* writes—"Paris under the fostering care of the Emperor, had become next to St. Petersburg the dearest capital in Europe. Its property was artificial, and was dependent upon a long chain of connecting links remaining unbroken. In the industrial quarters money was made by the manufacturer of *Articles de Paris*, and for these, as soon as the communications are reopened, there will be the same market as heretofore. As a city of pleasure, however, its prosperity must depend, like a huge watering place, upon its being able to attract strangers. If they do not return, a reduction in prices will take place, which will ruin most of the shopkeepers, proprietors of houses, and hotel-keepers. But this although unpleasant to individuals, would be to the advantage to the world at large. Extravagance in Paris makes extravagance the fashion everywhere. Under the Empire, to spend money was the readiest road to social distinction. The old *bourgeoisie* still retained the careful habits of the days of Louis Philippe, and made fortunes by cheeseparing. Imperial Paris was far above this. Families were obliged to spend 20 per cent. of their incomes in order to lodge themselves. Shops in favoured quarters were let for fabulous prices, and charged fabulous prices for their wares. *Cocodettes* of the court, *cocodets* of the Bois, wives of speculators, shoddy squaws from New York, Calmucs recently imported from their native steppes, doubtful Italian Princesses, gushing Polish Countesses, and foolish Englishwomen, merrily raced along the road to ruin. Good taste was lost in tinsel and glitter. What a thing art was—the only standard of its beauty. Great gingerbread palaces were everywhere run up, and let even before they were out of the builder's hands. It was deemed fashionable to drive about in a carriage with four horses, with perhaps a black man to drive, and an Arab sitting on the box by his side. Dresses by milliners in vogue gave a ready currency to the wearers; and it is somewhat curious that the Raphael of his trade was an Englishman. This man gave himself all the airs of a distinguished artist. He received his clients with vulgar condescension, and they—no matter what their rank—submitted to his insolence in the hope that he would enable them to outshine their rivals. Ambassadors' wives and Court ladies used to go and take tea with the fellow, and dispute the honour of filling his cup or putting sugar into it. I once went into his shop—a sort of drawing-room hung round with dresses. I found him lolling on a chair, his legs crossed before the fire. Around him were a bevy of women, some pretty, some ugly, listening to his observations with the wrapt attention of the disciples of a sage. He called them up before him like school girls, and after inspecting them, praised or blamed their dresses. One, a pretty young girl, found favour in his eyes, and he told her that he must dream and meditate several days over her, in order to find inspiration to make a gown worthy of her. 'Why do you wear these ugly gloves?' he said to another, 'never let me see you in gloves of that colour again.' She was a very grand lady, but she slipped off her gloves, and put them in her pocket with a guilty look. When there was going to be a ball at Court, ladies used to go down on their knees to him to make them beautiful. For some time he declined to dress any longer the wife of a great Imperial dignitary who had not been sufficiently humble towards him. She came to him in tears, but he was obdurate, and he only consented at last to make a gown for her on condition that she would put it on for the first time in his shop. The Empress, who dealt with him, sent to tell him that if he did not abate his prices she would leave him. 'You cannot,' he replied, and in fact she could not, for she stood by him to the last. A morning dress by this artist worth in reality about 4*l.*, cost 30*l.*; an evening dress, tawdry with flounces, ribands, and bad lace could not be had under 70*l.* There are about thirty shops in Paris where, as at this English man-milliner's, the goods are not better than elsewhere, but where they cost about ten times their value. They are patronised by fools with more money than wit, and chiefly by foreign fools. The proprietor of one of these establishments was complaining to me the other day of what he was losing by the siege. I told him that I sympathised with him about as much as I should with a Greek brigand, bewailing a falling off of wealthy strangers in the district where he was in the habit of carrying on his commercial operations."

**A LADY'S ACCOUNT OF THE PARISIAN CHRISTMAS EVE.**—In a Christmas Eve letter of a lady who, with her family, is shut up in Paris, we read:—"As to food, it is daily shrinking from every one. We were rationed in rice about the 15th—5*l.* worth for three—to last three days; the variety, three herrings or some stock fish. . . . It is now so long since I tasted animal food that I forget the date. You will imagine that I cannot avail myself of the loathsome substitutes which are now quite common, and this fact of itself shows to what a pass the city is brought, though all is done to put a good face on it to the enemy, and rightly; but the suffering is great, and I see many proofs of it. I have still that

something called milk which helps me to swallow my morning *café*. With this I have half a ship-biscuit, steeped in water first, and with it some grains of salt Breton butter. Many days this lasts me till 4 p.m., when I dine. If I feel unusually weak, I take, in the interval, a cup of chocolate with gruel. For a dinner, sometimes very weak vegetable broth, a sort of *julienne*, but vegetables are now exceedingly scarce. You may buy one leek dear, and the two servants eat mangold-wurzel as salad. Sometimes, as to-day, we have a wonderful find—pea-soup; sometimes *tapioca bouillon*; then, occasionally, a dish of mushrooms, and these fungi have served us in good stead; they make quite a meal, well stewed. Then a pudding (usually a rolled pudding) with sweetmeat, very small, for grease of any eatable kind is a great luxury. You see, if it is little, it is often, and somehow I keep up pretty firm. The servants might have chocolate, but prefer a bread soup with wine; and, above all, salad contents Marie, though it be made with mangold-wurzel. Then we have a small quantity of preserved vegetables in reserve for treats, such as asparagus, in tin boxes. But as to potatoes, they have long disappeared. One day lately one of the servants found five or six very small ones in the bottom of a closet. It was an event."

**STRANGE EFFECTS OF WAR EXCITEMENT.**—A curious instance of the effect of nervous shock is to be seen in one of the hospitals at Dresden, in the case of a soldier who was found on the field after the battle of St. Privat. He is not wounded, but is in a state of extreme prostration. He sees, nothing, feels nothing, and perceives no sound. The battle has so shaken his nerves that he has even lost the power of speech entirely. There is another in a hospital at Bautzen who presents much the same appearance of insensibility; but he moves his fingers about as though he were knitting. His state is attributed to depression of the skull caused by the splinter of a shell.

**NEGLECT OF THE NON-COMBATANTS IN PARIS.**—I would not willingly be harsh on a people whose patriotism is roused into fierceness by misfortune, but there is, to my mind, something I am tempted to call unmanly in the want of feeling shown for the sufferings of the non-combatant part of the population, and the stern eagerness with which many organs of the press insist on the necessity of reserving everything beyond the bare necessities of life for those who can do service in the field or on the ramparts. Throughout the siege there has been little pity shown by the Parisians for the defenceless—for the starving women within the walls as well as for the ravaged villages without. The "attitude" of Paris has been the sole preoccupation. National Guards receive thirty sous a day, and their wives fifteen sous, but women unconnected with the civic army and old men get nothing, and they must go and stand in long lines for hours in the bitter cold at the doors of the municipal canteens to get their scanty supply of unpalatable food. There it is that bronchitis and pneumonia seize upon their victims.

—Letter from Paris.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**A GERMAN VOICE FOR PEACE.**—The Bavarian journals report a remarkable speech by M. Kolb, member of the Second Bavarian Chamber, in the course of the debate on army estimates. Expressing his conviction that Germany, though victorious, stood in need of peace, he said:—"The representatives of a free people have never, gentlemen, allowed themselves to be deprived of the right of freely declaring themselves for peace. The case has often occurred in England, the finest pages in the history of Fox being those in which he struggled for peace. . . . I have said victorious Germany is in need of peace. The opposite side replies, Yes, but we must have an honourable peace. Gentlemen, has there ever been a question of any other? . . . Is every peace dishonourable which does not include a conquest? I am not at all of that opinion. I rather consider, especially in the case given, that conquest and annexation are as unjust as imprudent and prejudicial to the interests of Germany. I regard the annexation of a people who do not wish to be annexed as an injustice. Since I have been able to form a political judgment I have been a partisan of the principle of the individual suffrage of nations. I have declared that I consider such annexation as disadvantageous to Germany. You cherish the hope of securing to it a safer frontier in the future. Is it then seriously believed that the peace and tranquillity so much desired will be secured thereby? I think the whole world is convinced of the contrary. And now, gentlemen, are the claims we advance on behalf of peace unjustifiable? The military annals of Bavaria are rich in descriptions of sanguinary wars. None among them, with one exception, has caused so much blood to flow as this. If the struggle for which supplies are asked continues two or three months longer, you may be persuaded that it will have cost more blood than the Russian campaign. In the face of these human hecatombs, gentlemen, I lay aside every other consideration. I will not dwell longer on the other evils of this war, it is enough for me to show the barbarous and savage customs it brings in its train, and which are about to invade society. How much trade and industry have to bear is not for me to tell. What perturbations are not produced in civil life by the interruptions to the traffic on our railways? It is also a mistake to think that the devastations committed in France injure Frenchmen only. Their retroactive and disastrous effect will soon reach our lands, and we shall suffer for long years from the ruins accumulated there. I have but one more observation to make in passing. No indemnities for the charges of the war

are assured to us; the expenses increase from day to day, and from day to day the French people will be less in a condition to pay the enormous sums required if the war continues."

**THE MILITARY RESOURCES OF FRANCE.**—The following is stated to have been supplied from the French Embassy:—"The National Government of Defence has, during the last two months, made immense efforts, of which France is now beginning to reap the fruits, and her military position will, a few weeks hence, be really formidable. The French armies increase in numbers every day, and will soon reach the imposing total of 500,000 men, exclusive of the army of Paris, with more than 2,000 cannon, of the best patterns, and as great and even greater range than the Prussian field ordnance. A part of these guns are manufactured in France, and the rest have been purchased abroad. All the troops that take part in the military operations are armed with the Chassepôt or other first-rate breech-loaders, of which a considerable quantity are daily turned out by French workshops, whilst 400,000 have been bought abroad, and are being delivered as fast as circumstances allow. Meanwhile the muzzle-loaders, which form the provisional armament of the 400,000 National Guards, which have not yet been mobilised, and form the reserve of the army, are rapidly being converted into breech-loaders. At present the number of soldiers in the field is 400,000, besides 275,000 in Paris, making a total of 675,000, backed by a reserve of 400,000 National Guards, not yet mobilised, which are available for filling the vacancies occurring in the ranks of the active army."

**THE FRENCH NAVY AND THE BALTIC CRUISE.**—The *Moniteur Universel*, the official organ of the Government of Bordeaux, is publishing a kind of history of the French Navy during the war:—"Never (says the *Spectator*) was there such a record of inability. It was proposed to send two fleets to the Baltic, one consisting of fourteen ironclads, and another of gunboats, batteries, and steam-transports, with 30,000 troops on board. Cherbourg, however, had been stripped to foster Brest and Toulon, till there were neither fire-arms, victuals, nor sailors, and the fleet at last consisted of only seven ironclads and one corvette. Especially was it without the American ram the *Rechenbeau*, the only vessel in the Admiral's opinion capable of encountering the King William, but so disliked by the French builders as an American vessel that they had hidden her up under pretence of repairs. The Admiral's object was to seek out Prince Adalbert's fleet, but his ships were insufficiently provided with coal, and he was compelled to make for a port in Denmark. In the Baltic, however, he found that he had no maps, and received new orders to watch both Jahde and Kiel, places 900 miles apart, with dangerous straits between them. The negotiations with Denmark failed, as is well known, and the Admiral determined to watch Jahde, but found before he quitted the Baltic that his heavy vessels were totally unsuited to the narrow channels and shallow coasts of that sea. The fleet was subsequently ordered again to the Baltic, but returned to the North Sea, and ultimately to France, having accomplished literally nothing beyond driving the Prussian fleet into harbour, where, if it gained nothing, it suffered as little."

**THE SUFFERING ENGLISH IN PARIS.**—In consequence of the distress and destitution which prevail amongst the English and Irish residents in Paris, Her Majesty's Government have taken steps for their relief. On Saturday the Chancellor of the Exchequer had an interview with a gentleman connected with an eminent banking firm in Paris, and authorised him to take prompt measures, on the capitulation, to provide for the necessities of Her Majesty's subjects who have been shut up in that city, and draw upon Her Majesty's Treasury for whatever amount may be required for that purpose.

**THE PROPOSED FRENCH DEMONSTRATION.**—On Saturday a deputation from the "Jules Favre Demonstration Committee" waited upon Colonel Henderson and Captain Harris at Scotland-yard, to explain the arrangements for according a public reception to M. Jules Favre or any other representative who may be deputed to attend the Conference in the interest of France. Colonel Henderson said he would consult the Government on the matter, and having received their instructions, would communicate with the committee. These popular demonstrations, interfering as they must necessarily do with the ordinary traffic of the streets, gave the police great additional trouble and anxiety; but Colonel Henderson said there appeared to be on the part of the deputation every desire to diminish the inconvenience arising therefrom as much as possible. In acknowledging the Chief Commissioner's courtesy, Mr. Merriman expressed his strong conviction that "similar treatment would have prevented the occurrence of the painful incidents that had made especially memorable former public demonstrations." Without M. Favre, there is to be a demonstration in favour of France at Trafalgar-square on Monday afternoon next.

**APPLES FROM AMERICA.**—Some few years ago the quantity of apples brought as freight into Liverpool was comparatively small, but at present it appears as though they were to form one great feature in the business of the port. One of the largest importers of apples at Port Huron, Michigan, has contracted for the delivery in Liverpool of 100,000 barrels of the best Michigan apples. Large quantities of the apples thus sent to Liverpool are transhipped to the Mediterranean in exchange for other fruit.

#### Postscript.

Wednesday, January 18th, 1871.

#### THE WAR.

The special correspondent of the *Times* at Versailles telegraphs yesterday as follows:—"A thaw set in this morning. The forts and batteries are silent. A *parlementaire* is going into Paris to-day with recent news and letters of State importance. Count Bismark is much better, but is still not well. Prussia is anxious that the London Conference should meet and settle the questions at issue as soon as possible. Supplies of guns and ammunition are coming up to the army rapidly. On the 15th General Trochu sent out a *parlementaire* with a letter to Moltke, remonstrating against the damage done by the fire of the batteries to schools and hospitals, which were under the protection of international humanity. Yesterday Count Moltke replied that it was by accident, owing to the great distance and fog, that such buildings had been struck, but that when the batteries were nearer the gunners could be more discriminate in their aim. The fire continues methodically. The frost is gone."

A Berlin telegram says:—"A photograph of Fort Vanvres, taken at a distance of several thousand paces, proves the walls to have been much damaged by the cannonade."

"The heavy guns have been removed from Fort Vanvres."

Letters from the southern front of Paris describe the effect of the bombardment or cannonade upon its forts as far more effective than on the eastern side. In a letter from Versailles of the 12th it is said that Issy was much disfigured, the salients ripped up, the embrasures destroyed, the masonry a good deal breached, the barracks destroyed. Vanvres had suffered less, but was much the worse for wear; Montrouge, still smoking and still firing, had been much pitted and knocked about. But then night comes, labourers issue forth in the darkness from Paris, and by the next morning embrasures have been repaired, and new batteries mounted. For all that it is affirmed that the defences are crumbling under the German fire. "Work as they may, there is a gradual decay going on, and each day sees a small change for the worse in the general outline of the defence."

General Chanzy states in a despatch received in Bordeaux, that during the determined attack made upon him on Sunday, Admiral Jauréguiberry had a horse shot under him, and the chief of his staff killed by his side. The retreat, it is added, continues without loss of material.

It is announced from Versailles that the German losses in killed and wounded in the recent fighting near Le Mans were 177 officers and 3,203 rank and file. The number of unwounded French prisoners taken is now stated to be 22,000; nineteen guns, besides a large quantity of arms, ammunition, &c., have also been captured.

It is announced from Cherbourg that the 50,000 troops which left that place on Sunday to reinforce General Chanzy were unable to unite with him, in consequence of the railway north of Le Mans being cut.

#### THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference invited to consider the representations of Russia on the Treaty of 1856 assembled at one o'clock yesterday, at the Foreign Office. The several States that were parties to the Treaty were represented by their Ministers resident at the Court of St. James's—Austria, by Count d'Apponyi; Italy, by the Cavaliere Cadorna; Prussia, by Count Bernstorff; Russia, by Baron Brunnow; and England, by Earl Granville, who presided. The only exception had been anticipated, for no representative attended on behalf of France; but the proceedings of the first sitting were to be of a formal nature, and the meeting was adjourned, in order to afford an additional chance for the arrival of a French Plenipotentiary—the next meeting being fixed for Tuesday, the 24th instant.

Mr. Stensfeld, who is now at Halifax, last night addressed a meeting of his constituents at the Mechanics' Institution. The right hon. gentleman spoke principally on the question of education.

Sir R. Phillimore yesterday gave judgment in the case of the *International*. He decided that the Telegraph Company had made out their claim to have the ship released, for although the cable might have been used for military purposes, primarily its object was of a commercial character. At the same time he was of opinion that there was reasonable and proper cause for detaining the vessel and cargo, and he therefore made no order as to costs or damages.

#### MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The grain-trade to-day was again depressed. The business actually concluded was small, except in American flour, which, in consequence of the continuance of the Continental demand, tends to strengthen the value of other descriptions of grain. There was a limited supply of English wheat on sale, but, owing to the inferior state of the arrivals, very little disposition to create was exhibited, and Monday's reduced quotations were scarcely supported. The arrivals from abroad were moderate, and experienced a slow inquiry, at the late decline.

# A MERSHAM HALL SCHOOL, CAVERSHAM, OXON, NEAR READING.

Head Master.—Mr. WEST.  
 Vice-Master.—Mr. ALFRED S. WEST, M.A. (Gold Medallist).  
 Bondon; B.A. (Senior Moralist), Cambridge, Fellow of University College, London, late of Trinity College, Cambridge.  
 First Mathematical Master and Lecturer on Natural Philosophy.—Mr. A. TODD, M.A. Glasgow, (late Williams' Scholar).  
 Second Classical and Mathematical Master and Lecturer on Chemistry.—Mr. J. WATERSTON, M.A., (Honours) Aberdeen.  
 English Master.—Mr. W. G. HARRIS.  
 French Master.—Monsieur MALFROY, B.A., Cluny.  
 German Master.—C. NICOLAI, Ph.D. Halle and Berlin; Licencié de lettres, Paris.

## NON-RESIDENTS.

Music and Singing Master.—Mr. W. H. BIRCH, Organist of Christ Church, Reading.  
 Drawing Master.—Mr. C. R. HAVELL, Government School of Art, Reading.  
 Lecturer on Botany.—Mr. A. W. BENNETT, M.A., B.Sc., London, F.L.S., Lecturer on Botany to the Westminster Hospital.

The course of instruction is such as to prepare Pupils either for the learned Professions or for Business. Candidates were first sent up from this School to matriculate at the University of London in 1849; since that date 91 have passed, of whom 29 took honours. Since January, 1865, prizes of books of the value of £5 have been obtained four times by Mersham Hall Boys at these examinations; the Gilchrist Scholarship of £50, tenable for three years, has been gained four times; the First Exhibition of £30, for two years, once; the Third Exhibition of £15, for two years, once; the Andrews Entrance Exhibition in Mathematics of £30, for three years; and the Andrews Prize for New Students £20 at University College, London, each once.

The School Session is divided into Three Terms of Thirteen Weeks each. The NEXT TERM will COMMENCE on WEDNESDAY, January 18th.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"L. T."—Many thanks. The Chinese communication is held over.

"G. D."—The "previous question" is put in these words: "That the question be now put." If a negative decision is given, of course the question to which it is an amendment is not put.

# The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1871.

## SUMMARY.

THE bombardment of the Paris forts proceeds, and the heavy artillery of the Germans is telling severely upon their defences. There seems to be no doubt that the two contiguous forts on the south side, Issy and Vanvres, have been so seriously damaged that the guns are being withdrawn. We are told, however, that much of the damage to these works is repaired during the night by the French engineers, and that the *enceinte* behind is found to be unexpectedly strong. On the other hand, many of the German batteries have been considerably advanced, the defenders of the city have not an adequate force of artillerymen to serve all the guns at the same time, and the circular railway has been too much injured to be used for military purposes. But the Germans do not confine their attentions to the forts. Such part of the city of Paris as is within range—at present about one-sixth—are shelled by day and by night. Already one or two public buildings, churches and hospitals, have been injured, and many lives sacrificed. "Women," it is reported, "have been killed in the streets and in their beds; infants have been struck dead while sleeping in their mothers' arms. Four children were killed, and five were wounded, by a single shell. Wounded men have been slain as they lay helpless on their

couches. And, while the projectiles are raining death on the streets, hunger and disease are smiting down thousands, and the multitude of children's funerals tell, with terrible eloquence, on whom it is that the perils of the siege are falling most fatally." The following extract is only a specimen of the documents received from Paris:—"The Hospital de la Salpêtrière, containing more than 3,000 aged and infirm women, 1,500 female lunatics, and at present, in addition, the population of the asylums of Ivry and 300 wounded soldiers, was struck during the night of the 10th inst. by fifteen shells." It has been stated from Versailles that on Sunday night last ten thousand incendiary shells were to be rained upon the devoted city, but we have not yet heard the result.

How does Paris bear this new horror? According to general testimony, without flinching. The resolution to resist to the uttermost has been strengthened, and the citizens make light of the bombardment, while the Government, backed up by the diplomatic corps, have issued a solemn protest against shelling Paris and destroying women and children without notice. The most recent correspondence states that other substances, such as rice, are largely mixed with the flour, and that in the unsuccessful sorties of last week there was much difficulty in inducing the troops to act. Their efforts to reach the German batteries were entirely fruitless. Thus while the population clamour against General Trochu for his inactivity, the army declines to be led to certain slaughter. Paris has not yet come to the end of her provisions. "As to food," writes the *Times* correspondent, "from all I can gather from competent authorities, we have horseflesh, bread, and wine up to the end of the first week in February; and we may go on till the 1st of March if we eat up the horses of the cavalry and artillery, and make bread out of the oats which should have fed them." But discontent and division are unquestionably on the increase, and the population had yet to learn that their last hope of relief from without had vanished by the successive defeats of General Chanzy.

That commander has done his best with the Army of the Loire, but this time he has had to encounter German troops equal in numbers and far superior in discipline, experience, and artillery to his own. After six days of continuous fighting, Chanzy was driven back upon the defences of Le Mans, the next important railway centre to Paris; and a sudden panic having seized a portion of his Mobiles, he was obliged to retreat hastily, one portion of his army falling back in a westerly and another in a northerly direction. They have been closely pursued, with heavy loss, some 20,000 unwounded prisoners, nineteen guns and immense stores and war material. The hope of being reinforced has been doomed to disappointment; 50,000 men who had started from Cherbourg to help Chanzy having been delayed by the cutting of the railway. In this second campaign against the Army of the Loire the troops of Prince Frederick Charles have suffered severely, as well from the obstinate fighting of the French in several engagements as from the severity of the weather. They have gained their victories at a heavy cost. But the Army of the Loire, if not broken up, is incapable of further offensive operations. General Bourbaki, with his large force, has also disappointed French expectation. For a fortnight past he has been endeavouring to interpose between General Werder's small army and the besieged fortress of Belfort, without making decided progress. His repeated attacks upon the Germans have been repelled. They will now be reinforced by troops under General Manteuffel, and unless Bourbaki can obtain a decisive victory at once, he will be entangled in the mountains of Jura, with the prospect of being taken in the rear.

The London Conference to consider the Black Sea Question yesterday afternoon held their first sitting, which was merely of a formal character. Its members await the arrival of a French Plenipotentiary, and it is expected that in a few days M. Jules Favre will be able to put in an appearance—that statesman, as appears from an interesting correspondence with Earl Granville, being quite ready to represent his country at the Conference. We are told from Berlin that one of the principal objects of the diplomatic assembly will be to guarantee the free navigation of the Danube, and that "a perfect agreement has been effected between the Powers concerning the principal points to be settled at the Conference." Our bellicose working men are awaiting with eagerness the arrival of the French Minister, for the purpose of making a demonstration in his favour, and they intend to hold a great meeting in Trafalgar-square next Monday to protest against the bombardment of Paris. Such action

will in no way serve the cause of France, but it will encourage the Tory party to demand extravagant estimates, the burden of which will chiefly fall upon our industrial classes.

Two Cabinet Ministers have this week addressed their constituents—Mr. Forster at Bradford, and Mr. Stansfeld at Halifax. The Secretary of the Treasury confined his speech mainly to the question of education. The Vice-President of the Council took a wider range, entering fully into the policy of England in respect to the war, and defending at great length the course he pursued in carrying the Education Bill through Parliament. Mr. Forster's explanations were not, however, generally satisfactory. At the close of his remarks a resolution congratulating him on his elevation to the Cabinet, and thanking him for his speech, was met by the following amendment:—"That this meeting having heard Mr. Forster's account of his Parliamentary experience during the last Session, and fully recognising his previous services to the Liberal cause, regrets its inability to approve of the educational measure passed mainly by his exertions, and deplores deeply the means resorted to to secure its adoption in a Liberal House of Commons." This amendment was carried, though the division was a close one, and the incident has created no little excitement in Bradford.

## THE CONFERENCE.

YESTERDAY was the date finally agreed upon for the assembling in London of a Conference of the European Powers for a revision of the Treaty of Paris, 1856. It was originally intended that the Conference should meet on the 2nd of January. There appears, however, to have been some delay in forwarding, through the headquarters of the Germans at Versailles, the invitation addressed by Earl Granville to M. Jules Favre, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the French Government of Defence, and also some technical objections which were allowed by Count Bismark to stand in the way of forwarding to him a safe-conduct pass through the German lines, owing to which the meeting was postponed from the 2nd to the 17th of the present month. At the moment of writing we are unaware whether France is formally represented at the Conference. M. Jules Favre, hindered in the first instance by technical difficulties thrown in his way by the Prussian military leader, finds it now impossible to leave Paris for London on any business of secondary importance, because a bombardment of the capital has commenced, and he cannot make up his mind to leave General Trochu alone to occupy a post of extreme responsibility and danger. Probably, therefore, the Conference would not proceed further at its first meeting yesterday than might be necessary to constitute itself, and would then adjourn to give further time for securing the representation of France. This, however, is a mere conjecture, which information in our Postscript will probably have set aside as unfounded, or confirmed as correct.

The bare meeting of the Conference, quite irrespectively of any conclusions at which we may ultimately arrive, resembles a silvery gleam of light in a sky overcast with dense and portentous clouds. It may come to nothing, or the questions on which it may ultimately agree may fall very far short of the desires of Europe, but, at least, it must be regarded in the light of a protest by reason against the dominancy of brute force over international relations. It is the first occasion, since the outbreak of the Franco-German war, on which the policy of Europe is about to be diplomatically discussed. For the last six months we have listened to no arguments but those maintained by "big battalions," by loud-throated artillery, and by unshrinking carnage. A "still small voice," be it ever so small, which, in the midst of this desperate uproar, has lifted itself up in favour of settling disputes by peaceful negotiation, rather than by an appeal to arms, and which has succeeded in making itself heard thus far, is a slight but promising indication that the nations of Europe have not wholly abandoned themselves to the dominion of warlike passion, and the Conference, unquestionably, represents an attempt on the part of the Neutral Powers suggested by one of the belligerents, and acquiesced in by the other, to let negotiation take the place of fighting, and to refer a dispute in which the interests of all Europe are involved, to a process of settlement—the issue of which shall depend, not upon the strongest arm, but upon the application of those principles of international right which ought to govern the public system of Europe. It may seem, at the present moment, a futile proceeding. The scope of its action may be necessarily circum-

scribed. Its indirect bearing upon the war now at its crisis may appear to be exceedingly remote, and the object at which it aims, and to which it may find itself compelled to restrict its attention, may be but secondary as compared with that which troubles at this moment the European mind. But it marks, as we have intimated, a turn in the current of public feeling, and for this, whatever may be its immediate results in regard to the question submitted to it for consideration, we are devoutly thankful.

The meeting of this Conference can hardly fail of suggesting, as one of our contemporaries has pointed out, the contrast between the present fortune of the East and the West. Constantinople and Turkey in Europe would appear to be watched over by the Powers of Europe with a keener interest than Paris and France. It is not so in reality. But there is an outward appearance of its being so, and the truth is that four out of five of the great Powers have not only a reason but a foothold for diplomatic intervention in regard to the affairs of the East, which were not available for them in relation to the gigantic contest in the West. Still, though no treaty obligations have hitherto been violated by the belligerents, to justify the authoritative interference of the Neutral Powers, one cannot but regard the entire silence and inaction of the present Conference upon a question which involves the vital interests of Europe, as strained and unnatural. Possibly, events will sweep away the objection urged by Prussia against any consideration by the Conference of the quarrel between Germany and France. The fall of Paris, which will most likely take place before the sittings of the Conference are over, will present an opportunity and a motive for discussion which even German statesmen will find it difficult to withstand. At any rate, the machinery for instant diplomatic action will be at hand; and one can scarcely deem it impossible that, if it be promptly and judiciously employed, it may be used with success for bringing the present war to a close on terms not altogether unfavourable to the permanent establishment of peace.

So far as the primary object of the Conference is concerned, there seems to be a general concurrence of opinion that its deliberations will conduce to a successful result. They are expected to give a new and solemn sanction to the binding obligation imposed upon signatories to a treaty, until that obligation has been remitted by common consent. No doubt, such has been the understanding impliedly accepted by all European Powers up to the present time—an understanding, however, that has been occasionally overruled by the course of events. But it is now to be formulated by the Conference, so that henceforth any violation of treaty stipulations by a signatory Power, or any repudiation of them as having ceased to be of force, without the consent of its co-signatories, will be branded as an offence against the public law of Europe. Its character, as such, will not be left open to discussion. The act will carry with it its own condemnation. Should such a formulation of what has been hitherto but an implied rule of right be agreed to by the Conference, it will undoubtedly be a gain to Europe—inasmuch as it will place another obstacle in the way of public right being ridden down by overbearing might, and will create one more guarantee against sudden interruptions of international peace.

As to the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris which provide for the neutralisation of the Euxine, we imagine that there will be no serious difficulty in conceding to Russia such changes as will relieve her of all unnecessary humiliation. So far as the Treaty of 1856 was intended to be penal in its operation, there will be no disposition, we trust, to enforce it. Austria and Germany, we take for granted, will see to it that the free navigation of the Danube is not endangered—and England will unite with Turkey in opposing any relaxation of the treaty which would tend to negative the political results of the Crimean war. We suppose the Powers have arrived at some understanding among themselves of what changes in the treaty are practicable—and we anticipate, consequently, a smooth and amicable course for the discussions of the Conference so far as the affairs of the East are concerned.

#### AN ADUMBRATION OF THE CABINET'S POLICY.

THE speech of the Right Hon. W. E. Forster at Bradford, on Monday night, may be taken, we apprehend, as a shadowy outline of the policy, foreign and domestic, which the Cabinet propose to submit next Session to the approbation of Parliament. As such, at any rate, we intend to

look at it. It is in this light chiefly that the speech will excite the interest of the public.

We rejoice in feeling warranted by the general drift of Mr. Forster's observations to believe that the Ministers of the Crown have shaped their programme on those general principles of peace, retrenchment, and reform, which have hitherto been the bond of union between them and the Liberal party. In regard to such of their duties as arise out of our foreign relations, we gather from the tenor of Mr. Forster's speech, rather than from any direct announcement, that the Cabinet has not allowed itself to become infected with the military spirit so noisily manifested of late. This, of itself, is very reassuring. Had Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues permitted their sober judgment to be overborne by the clamour which has recently been raised against the position of neutrality maintained by the British Government, or had they indicated in ever so slight degree a disposition to yield to the promptings of excited passion, there is no telling how far they might have been compelled to go in the direction which leads to war, by that latent propensity of Parliament to encourage what is called a "spirited policy," which incontinently breaks out under the smallest show of Ministerial sympathy with it. The firm stand they have taken, and, as we surmise, will steadily maintain, against the modern idea that it is the first and almost only duty of a State to constitute itself a formidable fighting Power, and to despise its moral influence in comparison with its military organisation and development, leads us to hope that they will be able to keep the helm completely in hand until the fluctuation of feeling caused by the Franco-German war has been left behind them.

We are to have a scheme of Army Reform. Well, nobody who believes that we do well to have an army at all, will deny that reform of some kind has long been needed. Are we right—we think we are—in deducing from Mr. Forster's speech the conclusion that the Cabinet intends doing away with the causes which have long prevented that army from being an efficient instrument even of defence? Is Mr. Cardwell prepared to grapple with the system which makes our army at once the most expensive, and at the same time the least efficient, army in Europe—at least, as compared with the object it is designed to accomplish? May we indulge the hope that it will henceforth be organised, equipped, officered, and administered, simply with a view to national self-defence, and not with a view to dictatorial influence on the Continent? And is its efficiency to be secured without trespassing upon the rules of economy? Is our insular position to be taken into account in organising our means of national defence? Are we to place any confidence in our Navy, or proceed, as some would have us, as if the strongest navy in the world were of no service to us? If we read Mr. Forster's speech aright, we hope to see before long the British army at once a cheaper and a more efficient agent of protection from all external assault than it has hitherto been.

But we are not to spend the whole Session over an Army Reform Bill. Domestic Reforms are not doomed to be huddled out of notice by military preparations and discussions. The Ballot will be brought forward with a distinct view to final settlement, and in reference to this measure the Government will be heartily backed by the whole body of its supporters. The University Tests Bill will also be reintroduced, and, in all probability, carried through both Houses. Mr. Bruce will essay his legislative skill against the prevalent vice of drunkenness. There is also to be a measure dealing with Trades Unions. These, with sundry minor reforms, will usefully engage the attention of Parliament throughout the coming Session. On the whole, the "shadow before" is more attractive than we had supposed it might be. Let us but see this terrible war at an end, and we shall be content with the work out for Parliament this year. There is not too much, we hope, to be satisfactorily got through, and should the measures proposed fairly carry into effect the principles upon which the Liberal party would base them, we see no reason to doubt that they may all be placed upon the Statute Books before the prorogation.

#### POLITICAL MARTYRDOM.

"Law is as nice as a new-laid egg, and cannot be understood by addle-headed people." This venerable saw was recalled to recollection as we read the elaborate judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Keating in the Norwich election petition on Wednesday last. His lordship then decided that the election of Mr. Tillett, the Radical member for that city, was void in consequence of bribery by his agents. What was

the nature of that bribery for which the hon. gentleman was ejected requires some little explanation—an explanation which suggests the inevitable conclusion that the law for putting down bribery at elections has been most ingeniously, however basely, used in order to punish a steadfast opponent of bribery. In this case the technicalities of the law may have been observed, but justice was monstrously perverted.

It may be remembered that, to the disgust and indignation of the local party hacks and wire-pullers at Norwich, Mr. Tillett was at the general election of 1868 the candidate of the advanced Liberals of that city. That he stood upon purity principles, is a feeble form of expression. Mr. Tillett's whole public life had been directed to put down political corruption as well as to advance the Liberal cause. He was so decidedly the popular candidate at that time that the Whig section could not do without him. They, with a view to promote their own objects, proposed a coalition, and he as reluctantly assented. Sir William Russell and Mr. Tillett stood together. The former was elected and the latter rejected; partly owing to the desertion of pretended allies, and partly to the effectual bribery carried on in the interests of the Tory candidate, Sir H. Stracey. Sir Henry was unseated on petition, and a Commission was subsequently issued which brought to light a gross system of corruption during the election of 1868. When the writ was issued last summer Mr. Tillett was again a candidate for the vacant seat, and was returned, in spite of the intrigues of his Whig opponents, by a majority of 360 votes over Mr. Huddleston the Tory candidate. It is to be borne in mind that the petition just heard does not concern this election. The allegations of the other side were not sustained, and Mr. Justice Keating declared that Mr. Tillett's part in this contest was perfectly pure and honourable.

Mr. Tillett loses his seat in 1871 because one act of bribery is proved to have been committed at the election of 1868 by an agent of Sir William Russell with a view to secure a vote for the Hon. Baronet. That agent was hostile to the Radical candidate, he declared he would not vote for him, and it is not even certain that he asked the bribed voter to support Mr. Tillett. But in consequence of that unfortunate coalition he has been made responsible in law for this single illegal act in the interests of his ally at a preceding election. Sir William, for whom this bribery was committed, retains his seat! Mr. Tillett, who always and energetically repudiated corruption, and is eulogised by two judges for his purity of conduct, is unseated! Mr. Justice Keating's decision, however technically correct, is a satire upon the equity of law. It strikes down the innocent and spares the guilty. The judge himself no doubt conscientiously interpreted it. For he not only expresses his great regret at being obliged to rule against Mr. Tillett, "whose intentions were so honourable and pure," but he almost implies that the petition has been the result of a conspiracy. His lordship himself declares that his decision will have "the effect of giving a sort of triumph to that abominable system which has sullied the reputation of this city." "It is a triumph to the friends of corruption." That is, the judge is obliged in the strict interpretation of the law to encourage the system of bribery which the law was enacted to extirpate—to strike down the purist who has been dragged before him because of his intrepid denunciation of bribery! What upright member can be safe when the Act of Parliament gives such curious facilities for entrapping him? "Because," as Mr. Tillett says, "the man who refused to vote for me swore that he two years ago bribed one voter for me against my known principles—and that man not a supporter of mine—I, who was returned in July of this year by 360 majority, without there being one single allegation of bribery, or one single pretence for saying that one vote was bought, was not, therefore, it is said, properly elected on that occasion." It is a very hard case—a case certainly in which law is not justice, but a cruel injustice.

The abettors of "the abominable system" of corruption in Norwich have gained a temporary success, by ousting the member who was the means of exposing their misdeeds before the Commission. But it is an act of revengeful spite that will recoil upon themselves. Mr. Tillett has, for the moment, fallen, but the cause he advocates has won a signal triumph. He has already received proofs of the sympathy and admiration of his fellow-citizens, who abhor the base practices which have demoralised and dishonoured Norwich. They can best exhibit their loathing of such vile and discreditable tactics by returning in his place a man like-minded with himself. We doubt not they will do so; and that, when the fitting time arrives,

they will show their gratitude to Mr. Tillett by sending him back with popular acclaim again to the House of Commons.

Mr. Justice Keating tells the people of that city that his judgment—a judgment delivered under the law for the suppression of bribery—will be a triumph to the friends of corruption. It is impossible to exaggerate the sad significance of this grave statement. These men have made the law itself the instrument to stab the champion of purity and fair-dealing, and they celebrate the degradation of their city with a procession and bands of music. It is certainly a very strange result of the Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill that a gentleman who has conscientiously striven to carry out its requirements should be judicially pilloried, to the joy of all the rascality, "respectable" and otherwise, of the city of Norwich. We hope with Mr. Tillett that this is only the skirmish in their great battle, and that if the Liberals keep their reputation unscathed, they will assuredly win the victory. But after all it is not so much a question of politics as of morality. The revelations of the late Commission were bad enough. This dastardly attempt to ruin the champion of purity and honourable dealing is infinitely worse. In the eyes of all who value virtue, honesty, manliness, and high-mindedness, Norwich will share the odium of this decision. It is impossible that such meanness, spite, and trickery could attain even a momentary success without a great deal of tacit encouragement among its citizens. And so long as men who can thus act are not sternly condemned by public opinion, but are held in honour, so long will a stigma remain upon the city of Norwich; and so long will a clique of corrupt political partisans, Whigs and Tories, exert a more baleful influence over the city than all its religious and educational agencies can counteract. The declaration of the judge that it was a cruel law which compelled him to give such a verdict, because it was a triumph to the friends of corruption, has a painful meaning which the citizens of Norwich can alone nullify.

#### BETTER THAN FIGHTING.

THE most hopeful and encouraging development of English sympathy with France is seen in the spontaneous manner in which assistance, in the form of money, food, and clothing, has been forthcoming for the aid of the myriad sufferers from the war. Never before has England so warmly displayed the real strength of her friendship for her unfortunate ally. Foremost among the organisations for the relief of the distressed French people is the "War Victims Fund" set on foot by the Quakers. The labours of the Society of Friends have been larger and more efficient than many suppose. They have made no parade at public meetings, in lengthy advertisements, or exciting appeals to the public, yet by the close of 1870 they had raised among themselves no less a sum than 22,000*l.*, and contributions are still flowing in. The money thus collected, and which is termed "The War Victims Fund," is personally distributed by members of the Society of Friends specially chosen for that purpose. But the work is one of some danger, for disease is rife in the distressed districts, and already one distributor, Ellen Allen, has perished, her remains being interred in the cemetery of Metz. Her brother, Henry John Allen, and his colleague, Daniel Hack, are suffering from small-pox, while another labourer, Richard Allen, has been blind from erysipelas. But if the work of relief be so dangerous, what must be the condition of the relieved? The reports furnished by the distributors illustrate but too forcibly the horrors of war. At Gorze, near Metz, is an establishment for old men (paupers) called the "Dépôt de Mendicants de la Moselle." The day before the battle it contained 231 inmates, all old and feeble, many blind and otherwise afflicted. The night after the battle the house was turned into an ambulance, and the whole number of previous inmates were turned out to find refuge where they could, and as every house was filled to overflowing with soldiers and wounded, the 231 old and feeble men had absolutely nowhere to go. Since the day of the battle seventy have died of privation and disease. Everywhere it is the same tale. It is not surprising that a people who have felt so cruelly the horrors of war, should sympathise with the principles professed by the Society of Friends. Each of the distributors is furnished with a certificate, setting forth the peace doctrines of the society. This certificate appears, by the common consent of the various agents of the society in France, to have been universally read with great interest, sometimes mingled with surprise and admiration at its declaration as to the unchristian character of all war and the brotherhood of all men. One of the society's agents writes:—

"You can have but a small idea of the way in which the certificate opens people's hearts to us. They seem as if they could scarcely credit it when they hear there is a society which is against all war, both for offence and defence; and tears fill their eyes in reading it. To-day five or six asked if they might sign mine after they had read it. It is indeed a touching sight to see how they listen. Even in the hospitals eager queries are put as to how we have been able to refuse being made soldiers, &c., and whether we have been punished, and how, and did we then yield? And on hearing these answered, and the excellence of love pointed out, the tears would trickle down their faces, as they said they never thought of such a thing before." The assistance is given in the modes most likely to be of real service. Thus in some places, clothing, such as worsted jackets, children's garments, and blankets, are given; in other localities seed corn is procured for the destitute farmers; while near Metz, several steam-ploughs and cultivators have been provided. But no matter what form the relief may assume, it is always of a practical character. The office of the fund is at 154, Minories, London, to which place all articles intended for the distressed peasantry will be conveyed free of cost by the leading railway companies.

Another movement, the importance of which cannot be over-estimated, is that connected with the "French Peasant Farmers Seed Fund," formed for the purpose of collecting contributions of corn and other seeds (or money subscriptions for their purchase) for the purpose of enabling the peasant farmers of France to sow their land and save their next year's harvest, which, otherwise, will be lost. When it is remembered how the system of peasant-proprietorship prevails in France, the completeness of the ruin from which the peasant farmers are suffering will be more fully comprehended. Unless helped by the English people, their little farms must remain untillied, and the horrors of famine become added to those of war. Everywhere the fruits of last year's harvest are being mercilessly consumed or wasted by the invader, and, should they not be replaced this year, nothing but starvation and death awaits thousands of innocent beings. The Messrs. Howard, of Bedford, have taken a prominent part in establishing the fund, the offices of which are at the Salisbury Hotel, Salisbury-square, Fleet-street. It is much to the credit of our agriculturalists that, in many places, they are evincing a strong desire to co-operate in furthering the objects of the fund.

The French Peasant Relief Fund, originated by the *Daily News*, is another illustration of the powerful current of sympathy towards France observable in this country. Although until recently that journal has leaned very strongly to the German side, it has not shrunk from displaying a desire to assist the French victims of the war. Already a sum of nearly 16,000*l.* has been collected among the readers and friends of that influential journal, and the amount is steadily being increased. The distribution is effected under the direction of Mr. W. H. Bullock, and is effected in the same practical manner as that characteristic of the Society of Friends. The assistance has everywhere been gratefully welcomed, but the means of help are far below the real need of the devastated districts. How great is the suffering may be inferred from a portion of the Bishop of Versailles' touching appeal to the English nation. In his letter, which was published in the *Daily Telegraph*, the Bishop informs us that, in the circle of investment around Paris, out of a total population of 51,842, 23,308 are "refugee poor."

Of the 234 communes of the Department of the Seine-et-Oise, 170 are comprised in the zone, about four miles wide, in which active siege operations are conducted. These communes, which are the most populous in the Department, because they are the nearest to Paris, contain 222,771 inhabitants out of the entire population of 553,727. Since the 20th September, on which day Paris was invested, these 222,000 inhabitants have had to lodge, and in great measure to feed, 300,000 hostile soldiers. In the other communes of the department there are about 100,000 other soldiers spread out everywhere in search of food. Elsewhere the Germans have passed by like a torrent; a few days afterwards, it has been possible to breathe again. Here they stop. Upon us they have lived for three months; no one can foresee how long they may remain. All is now ruin in the districts, once so prosperous, which extend for fifty miles round Paris. Nothing will be left there. We see what war is. Requisitions, the destruction of houses, crops, farms, manufactories, the absolute stoppage of all work, have led the population to indescribable misery. The Bishop says that no rich people exist any longer in France; that there are no means of applying to any one in their own country; and remembering what England has done, he and his clergy make another appeal to her people to save the lives of those who have neither shelter nor bread. The Bishop believes there are "100,000 persons, inhabi-

tants of the zone of attack, without any means of subsistence." He gives some touching instances of individual suffering. The Bishop's appeal has not been in vain. Already sums varying from one shilling to a hundred pounds, are pouring in, and a committee has been formed, including the names of the Bishop of London, Archbishop Manning, the Lord Mayor, Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., Canon Liddon, Rev. Dr. William Brook, Mr. R. W. Crawford, M.P., Governor of the Bank of England, Mr. T. M. Weguelin, M.P., Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Mr. Phillip Cazenove, Professor Huxley, Professor John Ruskin, and Mr. Alfred Tennyson. Everywhere England is rousing to the rescue of France, not with the promise of assistance in fighting Germany, and thus prolonging this diabolical war, but with material help in the shape of food and clothing for the famished and shivering population, the means of replenishing the empty garners, and reviving the energies and hopes of the despairing. Surely this is better than fighting. The truest friendships are those formed in the hour of trial, and it is possible that out of this evil war good may come; that in future years, when the capitulation of Sedan and the bombardment of Paris shall have become things of the past, France, when tempted by her enemies to quarrel with her island neighbour, shall gratefully recall the hour of tribulation when England so generously, so devotedly, so ungrudgingly rushed to her help; and as she muses over the many hearts made lighter with English words of sympathy, the many homes rendered less desolate by English hands, she will proudly spurn the insidious advice, and declare that nothing shall induce her to break with England, her warmest, truest, and most unselfish friend. Truly, there is something better than fighting!

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

KING AMADEUS.—A GOOD BEGINNING.—The Madrid Correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"The young King is winning the hearts of all by his simplicity, generosity, and good nature. On Monday he took possession of his Palace. On Tuesday he sent away all the cannon in front of it, and all the guards inside except fifty. The dinner carte of twenty-four dishes he has cut down to four, and he has shut up half the apartments in the Palace destined for the use of the Royal family. He refuses to be driven with more than two horses, or with more accompaniment than an outrider in front and a lackey behind, with but one or two of his Adjutants inside with him. Fearfully cold as it is and has been, he insists on an open carriage. He rises early. The first morning he called for his breakfast at seven. It was not ready. The Mayor-domo told him they had not expected His Majesty would breakfast till eleven or twelve. Off goes the King, with one Adjutant, to the Hotel de Paris and breakfasts there! He orders the Palace gates to be locked and the lights put out at midnight. He himself, so far, has retired to rest soon after ten. These un-Royal habits—or, I may better say, un-Spanish habits (for here the natives breakfast at eleven, and go to bed when the cock crows)—are creating great astonishment. He has had one or two receptions of officials, at which he has abolished the hand-kissing of Royalty for the hand-shaking of democracy. What the Mrs. Grundys of England will say to this I know not. He gave 1,000*l.* to the poor of Madrid, and another 1,000*l.* to the needy among the citizen militia. He is soon to hold a review of the troops, and insists on reviewing the militia also. He walks about the streets, goes visiting and shopping without any escort, and accompanied by only one or two Adjutants. He called upon poor Naudin, who had his hand shot away by the same wretches who killed Prim, and he told him he was to consider his services as Adjutant transferred to himself. He has done the same with all the Adjutants of General Prim. Learning that the public schoolmasters are many months behind in their pay, he has told Minister Moret he will touch none of his pay till their claims are satisfied. The first week of his reign is nearly over, and he has not been murdered or insulted, and no insurrection has occurred, as prophesied by many. Indeed, so little likelihood is there now of any of these things that the Queen intends to come here before the end of the month, and it is reported that the ex-Empress Eugénie is to make a visit to her mother, the Countess de Montijo."

RUSSIA AND PRUSSIA.—If we may trust the Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, Count Bismarck, at the beginning of the war, inquired at St. Petersburg whether he might count on the benevolent neutrality of Russia. The answer was in the affirmative, but it was accompanied by the expression of a hope that Prussia would find it possible to come to some arrangement with Denmark in regard to Northern Schleswig. In reply Prussia said she should be happy to compromise the matter at an early opportunity. There the affair rested until the repudiation of the Black Sea Treaty by Prince Gortschakoff. Prussia being disagreeably surprised by this novel complication and the possibility of a new conflict before she had done with the one in hand, Prince Gortschakoff thought it necessary to make amends by obliging her in another quarter. He accordingly dropped a hint that the Schleswig difficulty need not, perhaps, be settled in a hurry, at least not if Denmark abode by her former demand, which included not only Northern but a portion, and that a valuable one, of Central Schleswig also. There is no doubt this suggestion was favourably received at Versailles.

## Court, Official, and Personal News.

At a Council held by Her Majesty, at Osborne, on Saturday, Mr. C. Fortescue and Mr. Monsell were sworn in as President of the Board of Trade and Postmaster-General respectively. Vice-Chancellor Bacon and Mr. Maclean, Deputy Auditor of the War Office, received the honour of knighthood.

According to the most recent arrangements, the Queen is expected to arrive at the Castle about the 3rd of February. The health of the Princess Louise has considerably improved of late.

A French newspaper repeats the rumour that the Crown Prince of Prussia, supported by the King, has protested against the marriage of the Princess Louise with a subject, adding that the proceeding has greatly annoyed the English Court. It may be asked how a French newspaper could become acquainted with such an item of Royal family history.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone arrived in town on Saturday from Hawarden Castle.

A Cabinet Council will be held to-morrow afternoon.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster has been visiting the Queen at Osborne. He arrived on Thursday and dined with Her Majesty in the evening.

Mr. Childers is still very unwell. His medical attendants have, it is said, ordered him entire rest; consequently no official duties whatever are being transacted by him.

A contemporary believes that the appointment of Mr. Monsell to the Post Office is intended to be the first step in the reorganisation of that department. It is said that the separation of the office from the dignity of the Cabinet is the first step towards its conversion into a permanent one—just as the chairmanship of the Board's of Customs and Inland Revenue are permanent offices.

Mr. Hibbert is the only new addition to the Government, taking Mr. Peel's place as Secretary to the Poor Law Board.

It is rumoured that the Speaker of the House of Commons will retire from his office soon after the meeting of Parliament next month. It is said that Mr. Denison only awaits the appointment of his successor before retiring from Parliament.

It is stated that the Lord Chancellor is engaged in preparing a bill for the reform of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Should there, says the *Observer*, be an important debate on the Address in answer to the Royal Speech, it is understood that Mr. Cardwell will make a statement in reply to the various charges brought against the department for which he is officially responsible. Our contemporary adds—"The coming session will not be entirely given up to military questions, foreign affairs, and party fights; there is a prospect of a fair amount of useful home legislation. In order to effect this we hear the Government will introduce several measures in the House of Lords, and so by dividing the business between the two Houses get through more work."

Professor Huxley has accepted the office of President of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, held in 1869 by the late Charles Dickens.

The Prince and Princess of Teck arrived at Sandringham on Saturday afternoon, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

At the Privy Council held on Saturday, Parliament was prorogued to the 9th of February.

The preparations are gradually going on at Windsor for the marriage of the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorn. It is understood that after the marriage ceremony the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorn will proceed by road to Claremont House, Esher.

Prince Arthur has been unable to return to Woolwich in consequence of having sprained his ankle. He is progressing favourably.

The *British Medical Journal* states that Miss Garrett has no intention of resigning her seat at the School Board on her marriage, nor do her friends entertain any expectation that she will be called upon to do so. She will continue to practise, taking the name of Garrett-Anderson.

## THE EDUCATION ACT.

## LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

A meeting of this body was held on Friday at the Guildhall Council Chamber, Lord Lawrence in the chair. The Rev. W. Rogers moved the adoption of the committee's report, recommending the appointment, at a salary of 300*l.* per annum, of a private secretary to the chairman, and that such appointment be made by the chairman. In doing so, the speaker remarked on the great amount of work that is brought before the chairman. To himself, as a private member, there were daily delivered cartloads of letters and papers, and his house was besieged by numbers of persons who not only sought to see him, but even at the rectory required to have some refreshment also. (Laughter.) If that were the case with him, how much more must it be so with the chairman! He thought 300*l.* was a moderate sum for the services of a man of education and a gentleman, who would be required for the office. Mr. Watson seconded. Mr. Lucraft opposed on the ground that all letters should be addressed to the board and dealt with by its clerks, and that they should keep the whole business in their own hands, and have no "wire-pulling." He, therefore, moved that the report be referred back to the committee. The amendment was not seconded, and after the expression of some adverse opinion it was withdrawn, and the report adopted.

A report was read by the committee on the returns required by the Act. They were of opinion that further inquiry is necessary into the schools mentioned within the metropolitan district. The report was adopted.

A report of the officers' committee was read, stating that, in pursuance of the order of the board, they had advertised for applicants for the office of chief clerk, and had selected from eighty-nine candidates four, whose names they now submitted to the board, viz., William Edward Bovill, George Hector Croad, Samuel Buckley Litchfield, and John S. Taylor. The claims of these gentlemen would be considered at the next meeting of the board. A great deal of time was consumed in discussing the question whether the selected candidates should be required to attend a couple of hours before the meeting, in order to be personally examined by the members of the board. It was ultimately carried that they should. The board adjourned at its rising to this day—Wednesday, being the day fixed upon for the weekly meeting, and three o'clock the hour.

It is stated that, of the eighty-nine applicants for the office of clerk to the London School Board, the committee at first selected the six following, viz., Messrs. Bovill, Litchfield, Selway, Croad, Taylor, and Pears. They also saw Mr. Cunningham, of King's College, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Hare, but finally determined only to send up to the board the four names mentioned on Friday.

We are informed that the motion of Professor Huxley, at the preceding meeting of the Board, for a committee to consider a scheme of education, was not carried, but adjourned *sine die*.

## THE PROVINCES.

CHARD.—The following gentlemen were elected on Wednesday as members of the Chard School Board:—G. England and R. W. Spicer, Churchmen; G. T. Canning and W. T. Toms, Independents; T. Giffard, Baptist.

ROCHESTER.—The polling for the Rochester School Board has resulted in the return of six Liberals and three Conservatives, six of them being Churchmen and three Nonconformists. There were ten candidates.

SUNDERLAND.—At the election of the Sunderland School Board, eight Churchmen, one Roman Catholic, one Wesleyan, one Presbyterian, one Primitive Methodist, and one Baptist were returned. The Primitive Methodist, Presbyterian, and Independent candidates had the lead.

BRADFORD.—At a special meeting of the Bradford School Board, Mr. M. W. Thompson, ex-M.P., in the chair, the chief business was the appointment of a clerk, at a salary of 200*l.* a year. There were sixty-two candidates for the office, and the number had been reduced to seven on attendance. The Rev. T. T. Waterman, Independent minister, was appointed, and as the whole of his time will be required, he will have to resign his pastoral charge.

SHEFFIELD.—Mr. J. F. Moss, newspaper reporter, has been elected clerk to the Sheffield School Board, out of fifty candidates; salary, 300*l.* Mr. W. Rees, assistant-inspector of schools, was elected clerk to the Leeds School Board, out of 253 applications; salary, 250*l.*

KENDAL.—The election for the Kendal School Board has resulted in the return of four Churchmen and three Dissenters. The working men put forward one of their body, the Independents one, and the Roman Catholics one, but were defeated. It is alleged that, owing to certain irregularities on the part of the officials not giving sufficient publicity to the notices of election, and in certain other points, the election is not a valid one, and it is probable that a petition will be got up, with the view of having it declared void.

LEICESTER.—The election of a school board for this borough took place on Wednesday. The *Leicester Chronicle* thus speaks of the result:—"Hitherto, contests have taken place for seats on the council, and the competition has been restricted to laymen. This week the clerical element has been introduced; and the struggle has been among clergymen, and by congregation against congregation, Church and Dissenting—each candidate caring only for his own return, and being backed exclusively by his supporters in the scramble. 'Each for himself' has been the motto, and the system of cumulative voting has been unscrupulously worked with that end in view solely. The result has been the return of the following persons:—The Rev. A. A. Isaacs, 14,190; the Rev. D. J. Vaughan, 10,669; Mr. J. P. Bailey (working man), 9,593; the Rev. J. N. Bennie, 8,367; the Rev. William Fry, 8,336; Mr. James Roscoe, 8,075; Mr. D. Merrick (working man), 7,787; the Rev. R. Harlay, 7,404; Captain Worswick, 6,241; the Rev. Dr. Hayercroft, 5,216; Mr. John Hollingworth, 5,074; Mr. John Barra, 4,507; Mr. Alfred Burgess, 3,773. We may remark that in this list of successful candidates four were among those adopted by the Liberal Registration Society—five were among the seven chosen by the clerical caucus over which Dr. Shaw presided—and four were so-called 'independent' candidates. Looking at the list, we find six Churchmen and one Roman Catholic, who may all be taken to represent a preference for denominational instruction. Of the elected, four only pledge themselves distinctly to insist on the mere reading of the Bible, without note or comment, in the schools. Consequently, the representatives of sectarian teaching, more or less pronounced, may be assumed to predominate upon the board. The result of the first election under the Elementary Education Act, passed by a Liberal Government, is thus the triumph of the Church party over the Dissenters in this so-called 'Metropolis of Nonconformity,' and the triumph of the minority over the majority of the burgesses. This is the

'representation of minorities principle' with a vengeance!"

BRISTOL.—There are at present twenty-six candidates for the fifteen seats at the Bristol School Board, viz., seven from the Liberal party, seven from the Conservative and Church party, one from the Roman Catholics, one from the Orangemen, two from the Liberal working men, two from the Conservative working men, one from the "High Church" party, two from the Wesleyans, one from the Free Methodists, one from the schoolmasters, and one from the "Secularists." Miss Florence Hill (daughter of Mr. M. D. Hill, Q.C.) has declined to be put in nomination, on the ground that she has not sufficient time to devote to the proper discharge of the duties of the office.

CARMARTHEN.—The Carmarthen Conservatives have been caught napping. The borough having determined upon having a school board, the two contending parties arrayed themselves under the banners of the "Birmingham League" and the "Manchester Union." The candidates were named, the combatants made every preparation for the contest, and the signal for battle was to be the publication of the official list of nominations. But when that list appeared it was found that only the candidates of the League and the vicar of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Morris, had been nominated, and in consequence the League party were declared to be elected. It seems that the Conservatives left the nominations to the candidates themselves, who forgot to have their nominations sent in. The only representative which the Church party have secured is the Rev. Mr. Morris, whose candidature seems to have been accepted by both sides. Thus, for the next three years at least the education of the town will be conducted on the principles of religious toleration and equality, and the school houses will be preserved from being the proselytising grounds of any particular sect.

BATH.—Miss Ashworth, of Cleverton Lodge, Bath, niece of Mr. John Bright, M.P., has expressed her willingness to become a candidate for election on the school board for Bath. A meeting of the electors interested in social questions unanimously resolved that she was well qualified to represent many important interests, and prominently the education of the female sex. The meeting pledged itself to do its utmost to secure her return. The Catholics are placing in nomination the Rev. Father Sweeney. Miss Weston, a local temperance advocate, and Miss Shum, daughter of Councillor Shum, a Wesleyan, are also to be nominated. The election is fixed for the 30th.

DEWARBY.—The result of the election here was that five candidates were returned by the Nonconformists, the trades unionists, and the Liberal party, three Churchmen, and one Roman Catholic priest. The Vicar of Dewsbury received the greatest number of votes, the priest being second on the list.

BURNLEY.—Three Churchmen, three Dissenters, two Wesleyans, and a Catholic priest were elected.

WARRHAM.—Two Churchmen, one Leaguer, one Presbyterian, one Independent, one Wesleyan, and a Catholic priest were returned.

PORTSMOUTH.—The candidates returned were five Churchmen, including the vicar, one Wesleyan, who headed the poll, six Dissenters, one Jew, a Catholic priest, and one undescribed.

DARLINGTON.—The Catholic priest headed the poll, and three members of the Society of Friends, three Churchmen, one Wesleyan, and one Congregationalist were returned.

TYNMOUTH.—Three Churchmen, two Friends, one United Methodist, one Congregationalist, one Presbyterian, and one Catholic were elected.

SCARBOROUGH.—The Church party at Scarborough have selected four candidates for seats at the school board shortly to be formed in that town. The Nonconformists have passed a resolution declaring that it would not be right to have recourse to exclusive denominational action, but that a conference of all burgesses who desire to unite on an unsectarian basis to carry out in deed and word the unsectarian spirit of the Act should be held. This was carried unanimously.

## MR. W. E. FORSTER, M.P., AT BRADFORD.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster addressed his constituents on Monday evening at St. George's Hall, Bradford, in which an audience of probably 4,000 persons was assembled. Alderman Brown occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by a large number of the leading Liberals of the borough and neighbourhood. It was well known that a number of those present were opposed to the religious clauses of the Education Act passed by the right hon. gentleman, and this feeling was manifested from time to time during the proceedings; otherwise the reception was of a very enthusiastic character.

After the preliminaries of the meeting, Mr. Forster, who was loudly cheered on rising, said he did not know that he had, ever since he became their member, allowed so long a time to pass without addressing them; but, although a Cabinet Minister, and therefore unable to speak with perfect freedom, he never had intended to omit his annual address. It was exactly a year since his last address, and the last half of it had witnessed scenes which it was impossible to find words to describe. Tuesday was exactly six months since the declaration of war by France against Prussia. What a change those six months had witnessed! The nation was looking with feelings of sorrow on the wild and thoughtless exultation with which Paris received that declaration, and now we were waiting in expectation of soon witnessing the entry within her gates of those Germans she hoped to conquer. The first half

of the year—the Parliamentary half—had been by no means unimportant; but he felt it to be his duty to speak on the great subject of the war, on which, however, he could only speak with a deep feeling of the heavy responsibility attending every word he said. Indeed, some responsibility attached to the opinion of every English citizen on this matter, and he wished that it were more generally recognised, and that some of those who were writing on the question would reflect that they might be sowing the seeds of hate between us and continental nations. He had never felt that it was the duty of Englishmen to tell the French to cease resistance, but, at the same time, he held that they ought to be most careful not to mislead the French as to the attitude of England, and cause them to prolong the contest after it became hopeless. Those who were partisans could not be peacemakers; and, therefore, whatever his opinion might be as to the beginning of the war, or as to its present position, it must not be expected that he should express it. That, however, did not preclude the expression of sympathy; for who could help sympathising with the Germans in resisting invasion at the onset, or with the French for resisting invasion now? (Cheers.) The right hon. member expressed his confidence that, when Parliament met, Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville would be able to prove that they had done their best to preserve peace. They had advised Prussia to withdraw the original cause of the war, and Prussia consented. They had urged France, after the cause of war was withdrawn, not to declare war, but that advice, he was sorry to say, France did not follow. It might be alleged that, if the Government had expressed a strong opinion as to the horrors of war, and the evils it would bring upon Europe, they might have stayed it. He did not believe that Count Moltke's strategy and Count Bismark's plans would have been changed by such means; but that was no reason why those means should not have been resorted to if it could have been believed that any good results would follow. If our Government were to attempt to lay down terms on which peace should be made, the answer of Prussia, and probably of France, would be, that it was for those who made war to make peace, and that it was not for neutral Powers to step in and say what should be the conditions of that peace. After again urging the necessity of refraining from partisanship if England were to have any real chance of bringing about peace, Mr. Forster said he was conscious that the position which he urged the nation should take up was not an easy one, but deviation from it would amount to throwing away any chance of becoming peacemakers. He was aware that there were some who would regard all moral force as useless, and who were prepared to go further, and declare that moral force was worthless unless followed by physical force—who would follow up words by blows, and make England's influence felt in this contest; but he was not himself of this opinion, and he would tell the reason why. There had been some meetings held and articles written in support of this view of armed interference; he did not want to exaggerate either these meetings or these writings, and he rejoiced that Parliament would soon meet, because in that assembly, largely elected by household suffrage, mere meetings and writings would soon be reduced to their true proportions as representative of the national feeling. He believed that the meetings and the articles were largely inspired, in the first place, by sympathy with the suffering patriots of France; but he feared there was another feeling less respectable than sympathy, and that was this—that the nation was hearing so much about war, and getting so excited, that it was beginning to be infected by the war spirit. (No.) A gentleman said, "No, no," but he must be blind to the signs of the times if he did not recognise the fact that the war spirit was in truth a most contagious disease. He did not wish to be misunderstood; he was not a member of the Peace Society, though he was born one, and he recognised the fact that occasions arose when war, horrible as it was, became a duty; but, when not a duty, war was murder, whether carried on for greed of territory or for the sake of glory. What right had we, then, to declare war against either France or Prussia? He did not say that in no case ought one country to come to the help of another, but he did say that the case in which it would be the duty of England to join either France or Germany had not yet occurred. Some urged that England ought at the beginning to have threatened France to side against her if she declared war, and that that would have stopped the war; but threats were dangerous things, and he believed that in this case, instead of stopping the war, they would have extended it; and if the Government had a duty towards other countries, they had also a duty to the people of England—the duty not merely of refraining from spending their money, but also of refraining from sending their sons to slaughter in a quarrel which was not of their making. He was for peace at any price short of the non-performance of duty. The duties which England had to perform were defence of her own shores and her dependencies—and he therefore sympathised with the attitude of Lord Granville in regard to the Black Sea question—and the fulfilment of obligations. Therefore he held that the Government was right in accepting an obligation in regard to the neutrality of Belgium, and declaring its readiness to fulfil that obligation; but he would be very careful about incurring such obligations in future. Mr. Forster referred to some passages in a speech of Sir Charles Dilke's, and repudiated a notion which seemed to be conveyed in them, that England might go to war, and not exert herself further than by blockading a few ports. If England did go to war, she would

have to strain every nerve, and prepare both to be heavily struck and to strike heavily in reply. Sir Charles Dilke was quite right in the disbelief he expressed in the rumour that it was an underhand influence on the part of the Queen that had prevented the recognition of the French Republic by England. There was no truth in the rumour, and the course of the Queen had been perfectly constitutional, and like that of an English lady. The simple fact of the matter was that it was the custom of the English Government to present credentials to the chief person of any Government. If it was a Monarchy, to the King; if a Republic, to the President; but at present there was no recognised President of the French Republic. As soon as there was the ordinary course would be taken. Meanwhile, friendly relations existed with the French Government, and Lord Lyons had opened communications with it immediately after its formation. Mr. Forster denied that the action of Lord Palmerston at the time of the *coup d'état* afforded a precedent for the action of Her Majesty's Government at present, and closed his reference to foreign affairs by expressing his hope that, ere long, we should see an end of any estrangement between England and the United States. From what he knew of the character and past life of General Schenck, the new American Minister, there was a good ground for supposing that the long-standing dispute between America and England would be amicably settled. Replying to the assertions of some writers with regard to the power of England, he observed that it had been said that her influence was obliterated from taking all part in foreign affairs, and was disregarded by all neutral countries; but the truth was, that foreigners estimated the influence of England by her power and her spirit, and not the writings of dissatisfied politicians and discontented officers. Our navy was, he believed, stronger than ever it had been before; and our army had, he contended, no need to be increased to the size of those possessed by countries which were liable to have their frontiers overrun by hundreds of thousands of soldiers. Army reform, nevertheless, was necessary, and he believed that a measure of that kind would be a principal feature of next session. Mr. Forster contended that Mr. Cardwell had been most unfairly dealt with, and prejudice undeservedly raised against him. He was, in truth, a man of great moral courage, and, moreover, an unassuming man. Other matters of great importance would come up next session. There would be a licensing bill, a trades union bill, the final settlement of the ballot, and the freeing of the Universities; they would have plenty to do, and be almost as hard worked next session as they were last. With reference to past work, he did not think it necessary to refer to the Irish Land Act. The Education Act was almost as guilty as that measure of shutting out other work from Parliament, for each took twenty-four days to pass through the House of Commons. But the first thing he wished to say with regard to that Act was respecting the response made to its passing by the country. He hoped to be able when Parliament met to say that seventy-seven boroughs, having a population of over four millions, had voluntarily put themselves under the working of the Act, and, including London, some eight millions would then be under its operation. Referring to the large number of applications for building grants made before the end of last year, Mr. Forster explained that only one-fifth of the total cost of the schools would be given on the average by Government, and that these schools would not be entrusted to the management of any particular denomination, unless the department was satisfied that the majority of the parents of the children attending the school were of that denomination. He was aware that a good deal of difference of opinion as to the Act existed among his constituents, but he denied that there was anything in the measure different from what anybody who had watched his antecedents had a right to expect. It was said that it would have been better to wait a year before bringing forward an educational bill; but he was of opinion that the people had waited for education long enough; and he contended that present facts fully justified his anxiety to pass the bill last session. It was said that the Act was incomplete; that compulsory attendance ought to have been provided for; but, in truth, the Act went further in recognition of that principle than it was expected to go; but if it was found that permissive compulsion would not secure the attendance of all children, general compulsion must be adopted, and he should be one to insist upon it. He believed the Act was a great blow to sectarianism, because the bringing together the men of all sects on the school boards and telling them that they must provide for the education of all the children within their district, would tend to do away with the sectarian spirit. He further believed that if the Government had made it a condition that the teaching in all Government-aided schools was to be secular, the bill would not have passed last year or this; and he would state distinctly, as he wished not to mislead any one, that he would not have brought in a bill providing for compulsory secular teaching. He believed such an Act would have stamped religion with the disapproval of the law—"No, no!" and cheers—would have been an invasion of the liberty of the subject, and would have betrayed the national prospects for the future, because he thought that they might fairly look forward to a time when these bitter sectarian feelings would be done away with, and when, by general assent, spiritual instruction would be given along with secular teaching. He did not charge those who favoured the principle of secular education with any want of religious feeling; but a man must do what he felt to be right, and he (Mr. Forster) would have submitted to any consequences rather than bring in a measure of secular education. The right hon.

gentleman denied that the Act made more concessions in principle to his political opponents than to his friends. The cumulative vote was certainly no concession to the Tories. It was brought forward by a Liberal member, and eagerly supported by Liberals. It was only introduced as an experiment, and his belief was that in the school board elections throughout the country the Radicals had gained rather than lost by the cumulative vote. Mr. Forster took up *seriatim* the other alterations made in the bill, and contended that they were, instead of being concessions to the Tories, concessions wrung from them. He was told that many of the Tories approved the bill, but surely the time had passed when a measure must be judged wholly by the character of those supporting it. In the battle against ignorance, he would discard the help of no ally who would support him on his own conditions—conditions which insured the prevention of any proselytising with the public money. The right hon. gentleman next proceeded to refer to his relations with his constituents. He was aware that the charge was brought against him that he was less of a Radical than he used to be; but this charge he did not regard, because he knew it to be untrue. He had now been ten years the representative of Bedford, and he only asked to continue in that relation so long as he really represented the constituency. His two great objects in political life were now the efficient organisation of our institutions, along with the maintenance of true freedom, and a thorough alliance amid all English-speaking people. (Cheers.)

At the conclusion of the right hon. gentleman's address, Admiral West moved, and Alderman Scott seconded, a motion congratulating Mr. Forster on his accession to the Cabinet, and thanking him for the full and clear account of his Parliamentary experience he had given.

Mr. CHAS. TURNER moved, and Mr. ELIAS THOMAS seconded, an amendment, recognising Mr. Forster's previous services to the Liberal cause, and expressing inability to approve of the educational measure passed mainly by his exertions, and the means employed to secure its adoption in a Liberal House of Commons.

After taking a vote twice, the CHAIRMAN declared the balance very even, at the same time he thought that the amendment had it. The amendment had been proposed amid cheering and hissing.

Mr. FORSTER, who was loudly cheered, said he did not find fault with the passing of the amendment, but he thought the time not far distant when they would regret their vote. When, however, they wished to have another representative, he must claim a fair notice, in order that he might consider whether he should appeal to the electors, or seek another constituency.

The proceedings then closed.

#### THE NORWICH ELECTION PETITION.

The decision in this case was given by Mr. Justice Keating on Wednesday. His lordship did not hold Mr. Tillet responsible in connection with the alleged bribery with a view to obtain the show of hands in 1868, when Mr. Tillet lost the election. With regard to the election of 1870, when Mr. Tillet was elected, the judge said:—"I may say once for all, with reference to Mr. Tillet—having carefully considered the evidence that has been given in this case, as it was my duty to do—I have arrived at a perfect and clear conviction that Mr. Tillet really, and in all sincerity, desired to conduct all election matters in which he was engaged with the utmost purity, and free from anything approaching to illegality or bribery. I think it is right to make that statement, because that is the impression produced upon my mind." In neither elections did he find anything on the part of Mr. Tillet or his immediate agents that implied that they were at all tainted with any acts of bribery. But it was proved that a voter named Huxley had been bribed in 1868 by direction of Ray, a person who acted as agent for Sir W. Russell. The judge added that the coalition of Mr. Tillet with Sir William, which made him responsible for the acts of Sir William's agent, was a most unfortunate one, for he was obliged, with very great regret, to declare Mr. Tillet's last election void, in consequence of this act. He ordered each party to pay its own costs.

On Wednesday evening a large meeting was held in St. Andrew's Hall, to express sympathy with Mr. Tillet, under the circumstances in which he is placed. Mr. Tillet said that the terms in which Mr. Justice Keating had asserted the purity of his intentions, both at the elections of 1868 and 1870, were sufficient consolation to him for having been unseated by the treachery of pretended friends. Mr. John Young proposed that a testimonial be presented to Mr. Tillet as a mark of their sympathy, and that Mr. Jeremiah James Colman, of Carrow, Norwich, be requested to come forward as the Liberal candidate at the ensuing election. Both resolutions were unanimously carried.

On Friday, Mr. J. H. Tillet, late M.P. for Norwich, issued an address to the Liberal electors of the constituency. Mr. Tillet observes:—"If I have been robbed by a base and treacherous act of the honour I had fairly won, those who have robbed me of that have unintentionally bestowed on me a greater honour, and have given me a firmer hold than ever on your confidence and affection. I shall remain amongst you. I will throw my whole soul into every effort for the good of my native city, for the strengthening of our great and growing party, and for the overthrow of a base combination formed by those who only agree in hate, and can only co-operate in corruption."

On Monday evening a large meeting of Liberals, representing all the wards in Norwich, was held,

Mr. Youngs presiding, to select a Liberal candidate for the vacant seat. The feeling of the meeting was altogether in favour of the candidature of Mr. J. J. Colman; the idea of a candidate from London met with no support. It is not altogether certain at present, however, that Mr. Colman will come forward.

#### IRELAND.

There is not likely to be any contest for Limerick, though Mr. Isaac Butt has been mentioned as a Nationalist candidate. In a letter from Dean O'Brien, the leader of the Nationalist party in that town, to a gentleman in Cork, he says he does not anticipate a contest in Limerick, and will regret one exceedingly. A contest between Mr. Monsell and a Nationalist would engender feelings which, at a time not far off, would mar the hope and destroy the strength of the Home Government party in Limerick. Even victory would be mischief, considering the position of parties and the work of the coming session.

The Irish "National" papers comment upon the result of the Meath election in a comparatively moderate strain. One of these journals paints the future of Ireland as "a self-respecting nation, which refuses equally to allow London or Rome to dictate to it in politics." Most of them object to taking part in elections to the Imperial Parliament.

Relative to the working of the Irish Land Act of last session, the Dublin correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"The decisions in the Land Courts are opening the eyes of the country to the magnitude of the change effected by the recent law in the relations of landlord and tenant, and the immense advantage secured to the occupiers of the soil. Even those who denounced it beforehand as a sham or a cunning device intended to increase the power of the landlord under pretence of benefiting the tenants are forced to confess that they did not understand its character. One, at least, of the 'national papers,' the *Weekly News*, frankly expresses satisfaction at the evidence of practical security for the tenant which has been given in the cases brought before the Courts. The Chairmen of Quarter Sessions, who are the judges of the Land Courts, have shown the utmost desire to apply the law fairly and efficiently, and they have taken great care in their addresses to explain its provisions to the people; and, whenever they could do so, they have regulated pending proceedings so as to bring the parties within the range of its beneficial action. Some interesting points have been raised, upon which the Chairmen have reserved their decisions. So far as decisions have been pronounced, there has been a concurrence of opinion, which showed that the Act is a carefully considered one. A case which the *Freeman* thinks the most important that has yet come into the Land Courts was brought before Mr. Rolleston Spooner, the Chairman of Tipperary, at the Nenagh Sessions. A tenant of Sir William Osborne, who had received notice to quit in respect of a part of his holding, amounting to five acres, disputed the right of his landlord to disturb him at all. Mr. Heron, Q.C., his counsel, contended that there existed a usage analogous to the Ulster tenant-right custom, and that by virtue of it his client was exempt from eviction unless for non-payment of rent. The question raised involves the validity of the first two clauses of the Act. A technical objection was made by respondent's counsel as to the service of notice, and the matter stands over until next land sessions for the production of evidence in support of the claimant's case. In the Belfast Sessions Court, on Friday, ejectment proceedings were brought against seven tenants on a property at Ballyclure, purchased by Mr. Graham in the Landed Estates Court for 5,000*l.* The tenants, who had been in occupation for many years—some of them, it was stated, for forty years—served notice of claim for compensation amounting to 1,700*l.*; but their claims were lodged too late to be heard at the present sessions. An attempt was made by their counsel to have the execution of the ejectment postponed until after the hearing of their case. He contended that, under the 21st Section of the Act, they could not be ejected until the amount of compensation due had been paid, and that they had a lien on their holdings until then. The chairman, however, held that the decree should issue now if the amount claimed were lodged in court pending the result. He was of opinion that the 21st section referred to cases in which the amount of compensation had been decided by the court."

#### AN EXTRAORDINARY ROBBERY.

An extraordinary jewellery robbery has been committed at the West-end. On Thursday afternoon a well-dressed man alighted from a hansom cab at the shop of Messrs. London and Ryder, jewellers and goldsmiths in Bond-street, and asked to look at some diamond necklaces and rings, stating that he had lately come into possession of some property, and was about to expend 6,000*l.* in jewellery. On leaving the shop he requested that a number of the articles he had examined might be sent to his house, No. 4, Upper Berkeley-street, Portman-square, at half-past five o'clock, in order that they might be shown to a lady. He gave the name of Mark Tyrrell. Diamonds of the value together of between 5,000*l.* and 6,000*l.* were taken by an assistant to the address stated, where the door was opened by Mr. Tyrrell himself, who, explaining that his servant was absent for the

moment upon an errand, conducted the assistant to the drawing-room, where a well-dressed young woman and Mr. Tyrrell took seats at a table, with the shopman on the opposite side. The man produced the necklaces and rings he had been asked to bring, of the value together of about 2,500*l.*, leaving the rest in his bag, which he placed at his feet on the floor. The lady examined them minutely, and at length Mr. Tyrrell suggested that she had better bring her sister in to look at them before she decided. She left the room, returned in a few minutes alone, and going behind the shopman, stealthily placed a pocket-handkerchief, partly saturated, as he believed, with chloroform, over his mouth. The shopman struggled, but was overpowered, his arms and legs were pinioned, and he was placed upon a sofa, the man telling him that if he dared to stir or speak he would murder him. Here he remained in a state of semi-unconsciousness for about two hours, when he managed to release himself, go to the front door, and summon a policeman. The two men went over the house together, but they could find no one in it. The diamonds the shopman displayed on the table had disappeared, but those he had left in his bag on the floor remained. About eight o'clock a woman who said she was the servant to the house knocked at the door. She stated that at about two o'clock that day her master, into whose service she had entered only on the previous day, sent her with a letter addressed to a lady at Tulse-hill, but that she had spent several hours in trying to find the address or the lady, but altogether in vain. It is also stated that earlier in the same afternoon Tyrrell called at the shop of Messrs. Emanuel, Jewellers, in Bond-street, and ordered some diamond necklaces and rings to be sent to him at 4, Upper Berkeley-street, for inspection. In this case, however, two assistants were sent, one of whom was a tall, strong man. The door was opened to them by Mr. Tyrrell himself, but they were not admitted, he explaining that the lady for whom the diamonds were intended was not then in the house. It appears that the house in Upper Berkeley-street, which is a furnished one, was taken only on the preceding day by Tyrrell, and that the servant was engaged by the landlord at his request.

#### Obituary.

DEAN ALFORD.

We greatly regret to record the death of the Very Rev. Henry Alford, D.D., Dean of Canterbury. A profound feeling of sorrow was felt in Canterbury at the unexpected announcement. It was shared in by all sorts of religion as well as political parties, for he was beloved as well as admired. The Dean preached as usual in the Cathedral on Sunday, and on Monday presided at a meeting of clergy and gentry to distribute a fund for the relief of the poor. He then complained of not being well (as, indeed, he had not been for some time), but no serious results were apprehended by any of his friends at that time. On Tuesday his medical adviser, Mr. Holloway, a local surgeon, was sent for, but his skill was unavailing, for rapid congestion of the lungs set in, and Dr. Alford expired at a quarter before two on Thursday afternoon. At four o'clock the tolling of the "great bell" of the Cathedral communicated the sad tidings to the citizens.

Dean Alford, seventy years of age, has long been before the public as one of the ablest representatives of what we may call Liberal Churchmen. He owed his appointment, which took place in 1857, to the late Lord Palmerston. He was a native of London, began his education at Ilminster Grammar School, and took his degrees at Cambridge, of which he was elected a fellow when twenty-four years of age. His earliest literary work dates as far back as 1831, when he published his "Poems and Poetical Fragments," which was followed shortly afterwards by "The School of the Heart and other Poems." Early in life Dean Alford had shown a tendency to severer studies than these first productions indicated, and in 1841-2 he was Hulsean Lecturer in University of Cambridge, and for a number of years—from 1841 to 1857—Examiner of Logic and Moral Philosophy in the University of London. His thoughtful and suggestive contributions to *Good Words*, the *Contemporary Review*, of which he was the editor till within a few months of the present time, are too recent and well known to require enumeration. The great work, however, with which his name will be connected, is his edition of the Greek Testament, the first portion of which appeared in 1841, and the whole completed just ten years ago. Marked by ripe scholarship and much research, it has passed through a number of editions. The Dean was very popular in Canterbury, and a co-operator in every good work.

Dr. Alford's rise in the Church was not a rapid one. At the age of twenty-three he was given the curacy of Ampton, in Suffolk, and two years afterwards he was appointed to the vicarage of Wymeswold, in Leicestershire. This he held for eighteen years, and in 1853 he took the ministry of Quebec Chapel, where his reputation as a preacher invariably attracted crowded congregations. Upon the death of Dean Lyall, in 1857, Mr. Alford was appointed by Lord Palmerston to the vacant deanery of Canterbury, and soon afterwards the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by his University. Whilst holding this position he has been prominent as a Churchman of broad and liberal views. In the summer of 1868, when Mr. Gladstone brought for-

ward the Suspensory Bill, which was the prelude to the Irish Church Act of 1869, Dr. Alford headed a petition of clergymen to the House of Lords, praying that assembly not to reject the measure. The Dean was very popular in Canterbury, both within the circle of the Church and with the inhabitants generally. He identified himself with every movement having for its object the benefit of the people, whether in a religious, educational, or pecuniary point of view, and, as already stated, his last public act was to take the chair at a gathering to assist the poor in the cathedral city where he was so well known, and where his name will be long remembered in connection with many unostentatious works of charity.

The *Daily News* says:—"The death of the Dean of Canterbury, after an illness of only three days, is a loss not only to the Church of England, but to Protestant Christendom. The Dean has died in the midst of his usefulness. It is only a few months since he retired from the conduct of the *Contemporary Review*, in which he had rendered conspicuous service to the interests of religion by his habitual moderation and fairness in the treatment of controverted questions, in order to concentrate his energies upon a Biblical undertaking of importance. In the field of New Testament criticism and exegesis his labours had given him reputation, not only throughout Europe and America, but also in Germany. But these were not his highest titles to esteem. His life was worth more than his books. For many years past Dean Alford has rendered in literature services akin to those which another eminent Dean has rendered in society by mediating between the Church of England and the adherents of the Free Protestant churches of this land. No living member of the Church of England has done more than he has to subdue the prejudices of Nonconformists against that communion; and, on the other hand, no one perhaps has more faithfully warned the Church of England against the dangers to which its members expose it by the cultivation of a spirit of ecclesiastical exclusiveness. Nothing could be farther from his nature than that patronising tone in which well-meaning clergymen are sometimes heard advocating what they call the 'comprehension' of Dissenters. By his opinions Dean Alford belonged to what is called the Evangelical school of the Church of England; yet it was from this section of the Church that proceeded a series of attacks which troubled the serenity of the later years of his life. The Dean was, above all things, a man of truth, and the fidelity with which he maintained conclusions to which he had been led in the progress of conscientious study, exposed him to attacks intended to narrow the sphere of his influence. The intelligent opinion of the public in the end did justice to him; and he has died at a time when it seemed likely that his labours would be more fruitful than at any previous period of his life."

THE REV. ALBERT BARNES, D.D.

The Rev. Albert Barnes died quite suddenly in Philadelphia, on Dec. 12, aged seventy-two years. The reverend gentleman thus passed away leaves more than a national reputation in contemporaneous homiletical literature. He was born at Rome, New York, December 4, 1798, and after following his father's occupation of a tanner, he entered Hamilton College, and was graduated in 1820—at the age of twenty-two—with marked honours, conspicuous alike for scholarship and capacity. His college career was followed by a theological course at Princeton, N.J., where he brilliantly supplemented his studies with a thorough ministerial training. License to preach was granted him in 1824, and he was ordained and installed pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Morristown, N.J., in 1825. Here he remained five years, doing a work of surpassing results for opportunities so limited. From here his reputation preceded him to Philadelphia, when, in 1830, he received an urgent call to the First Presbyterian Church. Over this church Mr. Barnes presided until very recently, when age and infirmity compelled him to relinquish the burdens of an active pastorate. No commentator or Biblical writer, save perhaps Scott, stands so prominent as Dr. Barnes; the works of none are more universally in use. For forty years his influence has been largely felt in the Presbyterian Church of America, and his books have been the standard in the schools, colleges, and churches. Three works on various Biblical books and themes, written in the midst of his active ministerial duties, are models of research and learning. The circulation of his "Notes on the New Testament" is said to have reached a million volumes. They were extensively translated, and have been adopted by many Biblical students of the Old World. Two other of his works, "A Life of St. Paul," and "Evidences of Christianity," had a wide circulation. He also published able works on Episcopacy, on the "Scriptural Views of Slavery," and other subjects, beside numerous contributions to periodicals and occasional essays and discourses. As a pulpit minister, Mr. Barnes stood pre-eminent in his day for eloquence and power; he retained the calm, impressive style of the Old School, and relied upon the weight of his utterances rather than grace of diction for conviction or effect. He was of the progressive school of thinkers in his denomination, and zealously advocated the tenets of the "New School," whose strong tower he was for many years. With the diligent habits of the scholar he found time to mingle the pleasant practices of friendliness, and endeared himself to his large congregation by the candour and heartiness of his association with them. He continued until his latest day to interest himself in his old parishioners, for whom he occasionally preached in his former pulpit.

## Literature.

## ABBOTT'S BIBLE LESSONS.\*

Mr. Abbott has earned very high distinction as a teacher, and the specimen of his work which is before us in a volume of "Bible Lessons," which he has given in the City of London School, furnishes evidence that his reputation is well deserved. We are not particularly pleased with the form which he has adopted in giving us a series of dialogues between the teacher and the pupil, but if these represent, as we judge from the preface, the difficulties which were brought out in the class, and thus give us an idea of the actual teaching, the objection to it vanishes, and, in fact, the book acquires additional interest as exhibiting the sort of questions which suggest themselves to intelligent youths. The teaching was given to the two highest classes, and the design of Mr. Abbott was to give those who are prepared for this advanced kind of instruction a correct idea of the spirit of the Bible. He has found, what numbers have found besides, great ignorance as to the real meaning on the part even of educated men who have had the ordinary kind of Biblical teaching, and as the result of this ignorance, first neglect, and then disbelief. Had the book been better understood, he believes it would have been more valued; the difficulties suggested by sceptical thinkers would have been more fairly met, and unbelief would not have been able to boast of so many victims. It is in the hope of strengthening the faith of his pupils as well as of increasing their knowledge that he has sought to educate them in an intelligent conception of the character and design of the Bible. To the mere framework to which so much attention is often given, to the names, dates, and incidents of the history, and on which the memory of the pupil is often exercised with little profit he attaches very small importance. His aim has been to develop the spirit of the Bible, and especially to dwell upon the "truths that bear more directly upon the gradual development of Divine revelation and human morality, by which the Supreme Being is shown to us in the Bible as training, guiding, rewarding, punishing, and judging nations and individuals, that He may bring them nearer to Himself, teaching them line upon line, and precept upon precept, until they were prepared for that complete Revelation of God as a Father which is given in Christ Jesus our Lord." This is the design carried out through the whole, and it is the steady adherence to it that lends no only consistency, but freshness to the book. Of the ordinary style of "Bible Lessons," devoted to the elucidation of the text, the grouping of facts so as to illustrate the history, the enforcement of moral lessons drawn from the particular narratives, we have a great variety. Mr. Abbott has broken ground in a new direction, and has here given a view of the educational process employed by God towards the world. If the idea is excellent, the working out of it is not less striking. Others beside schoolboys will find much that is suggestive, that gives fresh views of the unity of Scripture, that throws unexpected light on various facts both of the story and the record in these lessons. Mr. Abbott evidently discharges his duty in no perfunctory style. His soul is thrown into his work; he has made the Bible the subject of long and careful study; it is to him a living book, and his aim has been to make it the same to his pupils, and to lead them to find in it the light and power which he has gained from it himself.

The book, however, has a peculiar interest belonging to it from the prominence given in the educational discussion to the City of London School, as giving the best practical illustration of unsectarian religious instruction; and, looked at in this light, these lessons deserve special examination. The *British Quarterly* considers that they demonstrate "how practicable it is to give to pupils the very highest form of religious teaching, without any ecclesiastical, or even dogmatic, sectarianism." In the estimate of the character of the lessons we fully agree. In their appreciation of the spirit of Scripture, and in the power of developing it so as to attract and interest the thoughtful pupil, there is no book with which we are acquainted that is to be compared with them. No doubt they require a considerable amount of preliminary culture in order properly to enter into them, but it was just for minds that have had this training that such a book was most required, and we heartily thank Mr. Abbott for supplying such a desideratum. We acknowledge, too, the absence of ecclesiastical sectarianism; but, as to

\* *Bible Lessons.* By the Rev. EDWIN A. ABBOTT. London: Macmillan and Co.

"dogmatic" sectarianism, we cannot yield so ready an assent. Indeed, when we find the *British Quarterly* saying that "he must be an ingenious fanatic indeed who, with the Bible alone in his hand, can do much in sectarian teaching," we feel that we require a new definition of terms.

We hold that with the Bible alone we could teach the doctrine of our Lord's Divinity and of His atonement. We go further, and say, that there is not a doctrine we value that we could not teach from the same source. Our difficulty is to understand how any one could teach "dogma" out of the Bible without teaching sectarianism. At the first stage the questions between Trinitarian and Unitarians present themselves, and whichever view one takes is sectarian, that is, a view in which all religious thinkers do not agree. Mr. Abbott himself would hardly profess to have steered clear of all sectarianism, that is, of all controverted religious teaching. What he has done is "to abstain from anything that may injure the feelings or insidiously change the peculiar denominational opinions of any of his Christian pupils," and in this he has to a large extent succeeded. But it is hardly possible to give particular views of theology without touching upon "denominational opinions," and we fail to see how any man can teach theology without thus setting forth views of his own to which others are opposed. Even as regards "denominational opinions," we are inclined to think that Unitarians would complain that Mr. Abbott has come across theirs; and as to his view of Christ and His work, though it is set forth with great beauty, much catholicity of feeling, and a desire to avoid wounding any prejudice, we cannot suppose that all Christians would accept it as complete and satisfactory. We do not at all blame him for this. Our only point is, that if this be an example of unsectarian religious teaching, it is what the State cannot give with perfect fairness to all classes of the community. As an illustration of the way in which the children of Churchmen and of what are regarded as orthodox Nonconformists may be taught together without the prejudices of either party being wounded, it is admirable. But a nation includes other classes besides these. They may reasonably object even to teaching of the character we find here being given in schools aided by the State. Mr. Abbott thinks that to take away from the schoolmaster the privilege of using the Bible in this way, would be to lower the tone of the profession. But that is a small evil compared with the injustice done on the other side of taxing men to pay for religious teaching of which they do not approve. Mr. Abbott's lessons are as Catholic as we think any "Bible lessons" could be made, but if he were to ask a Roman Catholic priest, or a Unitarian, or, on the other side, some rigid adherent of the old theology, his views in regard to them, he will better understand the difficulty in the way of conceding the liberty he asks for the master in a national school.

## BRIEF NOTICES.

*Secular Annotations on Scripture Texts.* By FRANCIS JACOB. (Hodder and Stoughton.) This book may have been compiled from an *Ludex Rerum*, intelligently kept. Mr. Jacob connects a particular text of Scripture, and the subject which it illustrates with extracts from well-known authors bearing upon the same subject. This method produces sometimes a happy result, but we could point to instances in which the annotations obscure rather than elucidate the real spiritual meaning and significance of the selected text. One feels it rather a "let down," for instance, to come from the overshadowing cloud on the Mount of Transfiguration to the well-known description by Gibbon of the completion of his task in his summer-house at Lausanne. But this is an extreme instance of the tendency of the secular annotations here employed. The aim of the writer is no doubt to show the harmony of the truths of revelation with human observation and experience. It is, perhaps, a necessary result of the free use of such rich and varied material as Mr. Jacob seems to have stored up that the book should be entertaining and suggestive rather than spiritually helpful.

*The Evidences of Christianity in the Nineteenth Century.* By ALBERT BARNES. (Blackie and Son.) Mr. Barnes, whose death was recorded in the papers last week, has been a most painstaking commentator, and there can be little doubt that he prepared this course of lectures under the conviction that the description of evidence which they bring to the support of revealed religion was that which the present age especially demands. The subject is treated with great conscientiousness, and the lamented author makes frequent reference to the works of modern Rationalists; but in our judgment he has been more just in stating the arguments of the opponents of Christianity than successful in refuting them. Under each of the several heads into which the volume is divided, it would be easy to point to more than

one work of English origin far surpassing this of the venerable American author. We can hardly suppose that it will be widely or permanently read by those students in the British universities and seminaries to whom it is dedicated.

*We Girls.* by Mrs. WHITNEY, Author of "The G. worthys," "Hitherto," &c. (Sampson Low and Marston)—scarcely needs any other recommendation than the author's name. It should be remarked, however, that this is not, properly speaking, a novel. It is simply a reproduction, in so many chapters, of the every-day life of a family of girls in a New England village; uneventful enough, but for the ever fresh interest imparted to it by the play of character. The Holabirds have very distinct and diverse but not inharmonious mental and moral characteristics; and the web of domestic adventure which is woven by these girls and their companions, consisting of smart sallies of conversation, girlish frolics, occasional confederacies for practically useful ends, bold strokes of anti-conventionalism, involving the discomfiture of the timid slaves of fashion and propriety—all this, which is the staple of the book, renders it a most entertaining and withal profitable and invigorating book for "young ladies."

## MAGAZINES (Continued).

The *Fortnightly* for the present month contains two articles which are the outcome of the war—one by Professor Von Sybel and the other by Karl Blind. The former, entitled the "German Empire," is written "at the instance of several English friends," with the view of showing what advantages to European civilisation are to be expected from the present German unification achieved at the cost of "French depression." The gist of the article is, that, if France had won in the present struggle, then the influence of despotism, luxury, and priestism would have been in the ascendant; which would, of course, have been a calamity for mankind. Or else it would have been a Gambetta triumph, in which case it would have been terrorism—"the terrorism of 1793"—which would have been uppermost in Europe—none the less a calamity for mankind. "Whoever," says the Professor, "belongs neither to the 'Blacks' nor to the 'Reds,' may congratulate himself that hitherto victory has crowned the arms of Germany, and should hope that a glorious peace will consolidate the German Empire." He then combats the notion that the German nation, so consolidated, is likely to be an aggressive power, by stating that "the military power rests chiefly on an intellectual basis, on the personal services of all the educated inhabitants." If the Professor may be taken as a sample of the whole German people, then, indeed, England and Europe may rejoice in her present triumph and consequent unification, at the expense of the temporary depression of France. We wish it may be so. The other article is written from a Republican standpoint by Karl Blind, and is entitled the "Result of French Designs upon Germany." He writes chiefly of the Republican sentiment in France, and complains that even his political brethren there have all been bitten with the Rhine province mania. He anticipates, however, that German unification will have the effect of steadying the French movement of progress, by dispelling the idea that Germany "is no longer the field on which glorious expeditions may be safely projected whenever home affairs require some vent." But how about the hunger for Alsace and Lorraine? we cannot help asking. He then goes on to review the history of the French revolutions, and combats the claim to any "revolutionary leadership." He considers "the Empire" a temporary makeshift, designed by-and-by to give way to a real Federal Republic of the various members of the Empire. There are also two literary articles—one by Leslie Stephen, on the "Novels of Balzac," which is a very able critique on the merits and demerits of that unique French novelist, and the other by Mr. Rossetti, on "Shelley in 1812-13," together with an unprinted poem, entitled, the "Devil's Walk." Mr. Rossetti was informed by a friend of the existence in the Record Office of some papers of considerable interest relating to Shelley, and, having searched and found them, gives us here a most interesting account of their contents. They consist of some documents sent by the Town Clerk of Barnstaple to Lord Sidmouth, relating to the fact that a strange gentleman had been distributing great quantities of seditious papers, and even floating them out to sea in bottles and wooden boxes lined with wax and resin, with a little flag on the top. Also a memorandum of the Postmaster of Barnstaple, one Richard Jones, in reference to the great correspondence of Mr. Shelley and the like. The paper contains a copy of Shelley's "Declaration of Rights"—a document of much interest in these times of growing Republicanism, and containing much deep political insight and broad and lofty moral conception. The poem is published in full length. It is curious, and a very severe satire, but contains little hint of Shelley's after renown as a poet. An article by Mr. Fawcett, M.P., on the subject, "To what extent is 'England Prosperous?'" strikes us as singularly below the mark. It is a querulous enumeration of those defects of our civilisation which everybody is talking about every day, without any attempt at philosophical analysis, or any shadow of reasoning upon them. He denies that the reviving of several branches of trade, and a steady increase of our revenue from the excise, is any sign of

great prosperity, as long as London has 150,000 paupers, and the whole country a million of the same. He denies that Lancashire and the cotton trade are prosperous because the cotton lords are wealthy and the hands well paid, as long as these same hands are so improvident that they don't lay by an annual sum as a retiring pension. If Government, instead of assisting people to emigrate, would do something to help the paupers, he thinks we should be prosperous. He condemns the Poor Law out and out, because it helps the most improvident class and the most vicious, by helping them wholly whilst refusing help to such as might have saved enough to buy an annuity of 5s. a week, and only wanted a little more to make them able to support life with some show of comfort. Afterwards, with characteristic inconsistency, he urges the entire abolition of the system of outdoor relief. "France in 1870" is a longish poem by George Meredith, well worth reading, if the reader won't bother himself too much to make out the sense in some places. We protest against the modern habit of tying the Queen's English into utterly disentangleable knots, and calling it poetry. There is an amount of ellipsis and of syntactical dislocation, which is a necessity and is allowable in verse. But there is an amount of it which is intolerable, and we are sorry to say there is not a little of it in this poem. On the other hand, there are passages of great beauty and nobleness. The poem itself is a lament over fallen France. Here are one or two stanzas which will indicate sufficiently the nature of the whole:—

"IV.

"Ever invoking fire from Heaven, the fire  
Has seized her, unconsumable but framed  
For all the ecstasies of suffering dire.  
Mother of pride—her sanctuary shamed;  
Mother of delicacy, and made a mark  
For outrage; mother of luxury, stript stark;  
Mother of heroes, bondsmen.  
Mother of honour, and dishonoured mother  
Of glory, she condemned to crown with bays  
Her victor, and be fountain of his praise."

For strength she yearns—  
For strength, her idol once, too long her toy.  
So strength is of the virtues born;  
Strength shall ye gain by service, prove in scorn,  
Train by endurance, by devotion shape.  
Strength is not won by miracle nor rape;  
It is the offspring of the modest year—  
The gift of son to son through those sound laws  
Which we name God's, which are the righteous  
cause—  
The cause of man and manhood's ministers.  
Could France accept the fables of her priests,  
Who blessed her banners in this game of beasts,  
And now bid hope that Heaven will intercede  
To violate its laws in her sore need,  
She would find comfort in their opiates.  
Mother of Reason! Can she cheat the Fates?

She swung the sword for centuries: in a day  
It slipped her, like a stream out from its source,  
She struck a feeble hand and tried to pray,  
Clamoured of treachery, and had recourse  
To drunken outcries in her dream, that force  
Needed but to hear her shouting to obey.  
Was she not formed to conquer? The bright plumes  
Of crested beauty shed graceful nods:  
Transcendent in her foundries, arts, and looms  
Had France to fear the vengeance of the Gods?

Now is she in the vultures grasp of power,  
The harlot sister of the man sublime,  
Prometheus, she, tho' vanquished, will not cower.  
Offending Heaven, she grovelled in the slime;  
Offending man, she aimed beyond her time;  
Offending earth, her pride was like a tower.

She shall rise worthier of her prototype,  
Thro' her abasement deep; the pain that runs  
From nerve to nerve some victory achieves.  
They, like circle-strewn, soaked autumn leaves,  
Which stain the forest scarlet—her fair sons;  
And of their death her life is; of their blood  
From many streams now urging to a flood;  
No more divided, France shall rise afresh,  
Of them she learns the lesson of the flesh:—  
The lesson writ in red since time began,  
A hunter hunting down the beast in man:  
That till the chasing out of its last vice  
The flesh was fashioned but for sacrifice.  
Cast hence, the slave's delights, the wanton's lures  
O France! and of thy folly pay full price;  
The liminary nature that immures  
A spirit duffed in clay, shall break as thrice  
It has broken on a night of blood and tears  
To give thy Ghost free breath, and joy thy peers."

Lady Amberley contributes a lady's article on the claims of women. We say a lady's article, for somehow or other we fancy that her ladyship wishes to make out that if women have votes, all their present misfortunes and wrongs will disappear. As frequently happens, when ladies begin to reason, the connection between premise and conclusion is misty to the masculine mind. The article, however, is well written, and we entirely agree with most, if not all, of her ladyship's conclusions.

The number closes with a small passage at arms between Mr. F. Seebohm and a writer in the *Westminster* about land tenure in England. The reviewer advocates that Government should buy up all the land in the country, and re-let it in small holdings, so that "the people may return to the land." Mr. Seebohm points out several fatal objections to the scheme as thus propounded. We wonder he omitted to make more use of the argument to be drawn from "capital." That the State ought to hold the land for the benefit of the people is a doctrine to which we

heartily assent. Small holdings and ten-acre farms is quite another matter.

The *British Quarterly Review* for January (Hodder and Stoughton) contains some remarkably original articles. Amongst the most interesting of these is the first, on the American press, which is written with a good deal of knowledge and discrimination. We are glad to see that the writer knows that there are good as well as bad journals in America, and that the latter are not representative of the whole class. On the contrary, he considers it to be a subject of sincere congratulation that the influence of the press has been "so uniformly exercised on the side of public safety and 'good morals.'" Some differences between the press of England and America are noted, but one is omitted. We refer to the enormous circulation and influence of the "religious newspapers" of the United States. The fact is that reading of all kinds, and the reading of religious works especially, is more widely extended in the States than it is likely to be in England for another quarter of a century. The article on "International Coinage" will not interest many, but it appears to be written by some one who is thoroughly acquainted with his subject—which is not the case with ourselves. The "Malmesbury Papers" give occasion for a light gossiping paper full of anecdote, and the "Explorations in Palestine" are dealt with by a peculiarly competent hand. We have often expressed our opinion as to the interest and importance of the exploration movement, and if we had had any doubt upon the subject, it would have been removed by this article. It must be remembered, however, that the work has, as yet, only commenced. Years of labour and thousands of pounds are needed before it can be completed. "Early Sieges of Paris" is learned and *apropos* to the time. It gives hope enough that France will quickly rise from her present state. We have dealt with the article on the "Established Church in Wales," in another column. One on "The Greek New Testament of Dr. Tregelles" is meagre almost to the last degree of meagreness, but it is, nevertheless, a generous tribute to the invaluable labours of this great and laborious scholar. The article on the war of 1870, in continuation of one upon the same subject in the last number, although written with information, is not entirely to our taste. Pains, however, are taken to group the leading facts with care and accuracy. One of the best and most interesting features in the *British Quarterly*, is the review of books under the head of "Contemporary Literature." This is unusually extensive in the present number. We always read these notices with the keenest relish. We notice that Mr. West has inserted at the end of the present number a reply to the reviewer's criticism of last October upon his edition of Leighton. Mr. West's reply disposes of a few of the critic's decidedly trenchant remarks, but, at the same time, it detracts more than ever from the real value of his own work, and the reply is disfigured by abusive and threatening language. Mr. West more than hints at legal proceedings. Pooh!

### Miscellaneous.

JOHN CROSSLEY AND SONS, LIMITED, have just issued their report, recommending a dividend for the past half-year of fifteen shillings per share. With the amount previously paid, this makes the dividend for the year equal to fifteen per cent.

BEDFORD AND NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY.—We draw attention to the prospectus of this new and important branch line of railway appearing in our advertisement columns. The present subscription offered is for 15,000 deferred shares of 10s. each in certificates of ten shares. The price of issue is 82s. 10s. per certificate, and the interest at 5 per cent. will yield to the investor 6s. 3s. per cent. per annum.

RELEASE OF FENIAN PRISONERS.—On Saturday afternoon nine more of the pardoned Fenian prisoners sailed from Liverpool, on board the *Osnard* steamer *Russia*, for New York. There was no demonstration on their departure, the arrival of the men at Liverpool having been kept as secret as possible. Each of the released Fenians, before leaving Portland and Woking, selected his own travelling and winter outfit—every man being supplied with a first-rate "kit" and 5s. as pocket-money. The prisoners received further presents at Queenstown from the Amnesty Committee.

SMALL-POX IN THE METROPOLIS.—A circular to the various Boards of Guardians in London has been issued by the Metropolitan Asylum Board, detailing the measures taken by that body since the present outbreak of small-pox. As the two temporary hospitals at Hampstead are full, the managers have commenced the erection of other buildings of a similar character in the neighbourhood, which it is hoped will be ready for occupation within a month. There is also every reason to believe that the permanent hospitals at Homerton and Stockwell will be enabled to receive patients within three weeks.

THE CENSUS OF 1871.—The Census will be taken on the night of Palm Sunday, April 2. The arrangements that have been made are very similar to those adopted on previous occasions. Some time in the course of the week ending Saturday, April 1, printed forms will be left with the occupier of every house or separate lodging, and these forms, which the occupiers are bound under a penalty to fill up correctly on the night of Sunday, will be collected

on the following day. Their contents will then be copied into books, tabulated, and a summary made and published about the beginning of June. The religious element is left out entirely in the Householders' Schedule for this census.

Sir W. Mansfield has been speaking on Army Organisation at the gathering of London Scottish Volunteers. He characterised the conflict of interests existing between the line, the volunteers, and the militia as fatal and ruinous, and called for the sweeping away of all such divisions. He was in favour of compulsory service in the militia, without respect to rank or position. As it is understood that the advice of Sir William Mansfield has been sought by the Cabinet on the subject here referred to, unusual importance attaches to these remarks. It is stated on good authority that Sir William Mansfield will not return to Ireland in the capacity of Commander-in-Chief.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.—Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's Entertainment.—A new entertainment, with a "novel" title, is to be produced on Monday, the 23rd instant. It is called "A Sensation Novel"; and the characters and combination of incidents in this class of literature have been ably satirised, we hear, by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, the author. The "Musical Notes" are by Mr. German Reed; the "Vignettes" by Mr. and Mrs. Reed, Miss Fanny Holland, Mr. Cornay Grain, and Mr. Arthur Cecil; and the "Frontispiece" is by Mr. John O'Connor. The clever entertainment of "Ages Ago," which has run more than 350 nights, will be finally withdrawn next Saturday, the 21st instant.

REPRESENTATION OF DURHAM.—Mr. Davison, the Judge-Advocate-General, was re-elected on Saturday for Durham, without opposition. He met with a very cordial reception. In the course of his speech he defended the foreign policy of the Government, and denounced the projects for armed intervention in the continental war, for which some persons have thoughtlessly clamoured, but insisted on the observance of a dignified neutrality. The hon. gentleman said he believed the feeling of the country was in favour of peace, and that the confidence of the nation in Her Majesty's Ministers was as firm and unshaken as it was in 1868. Sir H. Williamson, M.P., and Mr. Dodds, M.P., also addressed the assembly.

ARMY REFORM.—A crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Birmingham Town Hall on Monday night, under the auspices of the Birmingham Liberal Association, to discuss the question of army reform. Mr. J. S. Wright, the President of the Liberal Association, was in the chair, and among those who attended were Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., Mr. Auberon Herbert, M.P., Mr. Muniz, M.P., Mr. Dixon, M.P., and Mr. Lee, M.P. Mr. Trevelyan, in an address lasting one hour, set forth the evils of the present army system, severely criticising the Horse Guards, and demanding as a preliminary to any reform the dismissal of the Duke of Cambridge. Mr. Councillor Harris moved, and the Hon. Auberon Herbert, M.P., seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—"That there is an urgent need for the reorganisation of the army, and that to render it efficient the present system of the sale and purchase of commissions should be abolished." A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

MR. JOHN STUART MILL ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE.—A meeting in favour of woman suffrage was held in Edinburgh on Thursday. Mr. John Stuart Mill, who was one of the speakers, in the course of his remarks said that a man's wife was very often the prompter of what he did, and was it, he asked, to be expected that he would learn to postpone private interests to public ones while he had beside him, in the person of his wife, one who had been trained to understand nothing whatever of the duties which he owed to the public? How, too, could a woman have a conscience about the public good if she was told, and believed, that it was no business whatever of hers? Give women the same rights as men, and the same obligations would follow. Another reason for conferring the franchise on women was to be found in the vast amount of brain power and practical business talent which she possessed, but which now ran to waste for want of an outlet into those great fields of public usefulness in which such qualities were very much wanted. The exclusion of women from the franchise was the last remnant of the old bad state of society, the *regime* of privileges and disabilities.

ASYLUM FOR FATHERLESS CHILDREN.—A general court and election of the above institution was held on Monday at the London Tavern; Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., in the chair. The chairman said the only business of the present meeting, besides the election of ten children, was to consider certain alterations in the rules for the more efficient working of the charity. He would, however, take the opportunity of the general interest now felt in the education of the young to state that, while the education of the children in this institution was strictly religious and Scriptural, no denominational catechism was introduced, nor any form imposed upon the children contrary to the religious convictions of the surviving parent or guardian. There were now 283 children in the asylum, and the committee deeply regretted that, seeing there were no less than eighty candidates, owing to the asylum being so full, and having due regard to the health of the children, they could not elect more than ten on the present occasion, viz., five boys and five girls. The alterations in the rules as proposed by the committee were then considered and agreed to, after which the election was proceeded with.

**MR. MONSELL AT RATHKELLY.**—The Postmaster-General visited Rathkelly on Tuesday last on an electioneering campaign, there being threats of a "Nationalist" opposition. At the parish priest's house he received an address from the town commissioners congratulating him on his promotion. Mr. Monsell, in a reply of considerable length, expressed his satisfaction at the results of the recent legislation on the land and Church questions, and anticipated a speedy extinction of the old feuds which keep Ireland weak and divided. He went on to say that he entirely and absolutely sympathised with his co-religionists in the Papal question, and had done his best to recommend their view to this Government; but it should be recollected, this was not like the education question. The latter was purely an Irish question; and there could be no greater injustice than to force on the Irish people English or Scotch ideas as to how they should educate their children. But the foreign policy of the country was an Imperial question, and an Irishman should remember they were not the majority. The greater amount of political power was not in their hands; therefore, all they could reasonably expect was that their views should be carried out partially. Government could not set aside the opinion of the majority, but that their views should be regarded, and that they should have their just influence in the decision of this question, according to their principles and their opinion of their influence. He anticipated the Land Bill, with wise supplementary measures, would remove all cause of dissension between the different classes in Ireland. In conclusion, Mr. Monsell indicated that the education and railway questions would be dealt with next session.

**REPRESENTATION OF GREENWICH.**—A meeting, convened in support of the requisition calling upon Mr. Gladstone to resign his seat, was held in the Lecture Hall at Greenwich on Monday night. Admission was by tickets gratuitously distributed among persons presumed to be favourable to the designs of the promoters; but a very considerable body of opponents had found their way into the hall. By way of precaution, the upper part of the amphitheatre was separated by a line of rope from the lower, in order to prevent any ugly rush. There were not more than 500 persons present. Mr. Pook, a local solicitor and electioneering agent, conducted the business and introduced the chairman, Captain Dominy, and the speakers to the meeting. Mr. Pook having read the requisition to Mr. Gladstone, and premised that he was addressing freemen Englishmen and not slaves, was followed by the chairman, who accused their member of driving away hundreds of families from the borough, and of attempting to destroy the constitution of the country by Radicalism. Mr. McClure then moved a resolution, calling on Mr. Gladstone to resign. This was seconded by a Mr. Watts, and spoken to at some length and with much vehemence by Mr. O'Brien, who joined to what had already been said a denunciation of the pacific policy of the Government. He would not ask, he said, for one hour of Chatham, but "Oh, for one hour of old Pam!" He resumed his seat after several cries of "Question," and the resolution was put and carried by a majority of about two-thirds. Another resolution, moved by Mr. H. Mayhew, called upon electors approving of the decision arrived at to sign the requisition. The mover said he believed Mr. Gladstone to be a master of debate and a man of much chivalry, but that he had done a great deal of harm. The resolution was seconded, and put to the meeting; but, apparently from the eyes and nose being about equal, no declaration was made by the chairman as to whether it was carried. Groans and cheers having been called for and given by each party, and a vote of thanks hastily passed to the chairman, the proceedings terminated with an unseemly row, in which the opponents of the meeting struggled to get possession of the chair to hold a meeting for themselves. In this they failed, but not until the chair had been pulled to pieces.

**OPERATION OF THE HABITUAL CRIMINALS ACT IN THE METROPOLIS.**—The report of the Rev. Lloyd Jones, M.A., ordinary of the gaol of Newgate, has just been published, and it contains some important observations in reference to the operation of the Habitual Criminals Act, and the evils which he considers to be occasioned by the means at present adopted for the surveillance of criminals after their discharge from custody. The ordinary says:—"In many cases the actual punishment of a criminal really only commences after his discharge. He is in constant alarm, if he obtains employment, lest his master should discover he has been in prison. If employment cannot be had he must resort to the other alternative, a return to crime, and this is at last sure to assert itself." The ordinary says that he could, if it were necessary, mention all the facts in the case of a man who had obtained three different sentences, and was from each summarily dismissed because his employers learned that he had been in prison. This man, he says, was in despair, and came to him for advice and assistance, and, upon the circumstances of his offence being explained, he was allowed to return to his place, where he continued to give satisfaction, as, indeed, it appeared he had done in each of the situations he filled after leaving prison. The ordinary expresses his opinion that the result of this proceeding is that a tremendous obstacle is thrown in the way of a criminal who is using every effort he can to do right. The ordinary states that he does not wish it to be understood that he desires to disparage the provisions of the Habitual Criminals Act, but merely that its provisions should be applied with discrimination. The ordinary then

alludes to the evils occasioned among boys and girls by reading the cheap sensational literature for juveniles, and states that it is a fruitful source of crime, especially among young girls, and he says he knows of many instances in which girls under fifteen years of age, in consequence of the suggestions contained in the literature in question, have adopted a course of crime, and induced other girls younger than themselves, to follow their bad example. The ordinary, in the course of his report, expresses a favourable opinion of the new Education Act, and says he considers it likely, if strictly carried out, to be of great benefit in improving the condition of the Arabs of the metropolis.

### Gleanings.

Two noble lords figured in the Court of Bankruptcy on Thursday, the Earl of Winchelsea and the Earl of Orkney.

Washington Irving related that he was once riding with Tom Moore in the streets of Paris, when the hackney coach went suddenly into a deep rut, out of which it came with such a jolt as to send their heads against the roof. "By Jove! I've got it," cried Moore, clapping his hands with great glee. "Get what?" asked Irving. "Why," replied the poet, "that word I've been hunting for for six weeks to complete my last song. That rascally driver has jolted it out of me."

**ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.**—It is stated that some of the collectors of taxes at Exeter have been making their rounds in the city, applying to the ratepayers for Christmas-boxes.

**THE GOOSE WITH GOLDEN EGGS.**—On Saturday week the wife of a journeyman carpenter, in the London-road, Southwark, purchased a goose for her family at a moderate price per pound, and, on examining the inside, fortunately discovered secreted two sovereigns of the reign of William IV.—no doubt intended as a country gift to some party unknown to the purchaser.

**MR. DISRAELI'S COMPLIMENT TO HIS WIFE.**—In a new edition of one of his works, the ex-Premier dedicates it to Viscountess Beaconsfield in the following noticeable words:—"I would inscribe this work to one whose noble spirit and gentle nature can prompt her to sympathise with the suffering; to one whose sweet voice has often encouraged, and whose taste and judgment have ever guided its pages; the most severe of critics, but—a perfect wife."—*Morning Paper.*

**MARRIAGE ON A RAILROAD.**—We learn from the *Des Moines Register* that one day in the beginning of last month among the passengers on "Clark Livingston's down train on the Valley-road" were an affectionate couple who had pledged themselves to one another for life. The preliminaries had been arranged previous to their departure upon their bridal tour; but, "just for the novelty of the thing" they decided to have the ceremony performed while on the train. Having secured the services of the necessary functionary at Manro, they were united together while the train was travelling at the rate of twenty miles an hour. The motion of the cars rendered it difficult for the bride and bridegroom to maintain their equilibrium during the service; but by holding on to each other this difficulty was overcome. The names of the pair are Madison Pace and Sarah Rolanbaugh. The ceremony was performed by J. W. Honnaid, justice of the peace. The other passengers were much interested at witnessing the wedding.

**THE PHENOMENA OF DEATH BY DROWNING AND COLD.**—The phenomena of death by drowning and cold formed the subject of Dr. Richardson's experimental and practical lecture on Tuesday. He showed, amongst other experiments, that fish which would be presumed to be dead from what he called "glacial death" were easily recoverable. His view as to the suddenness of the collapse of the body in water at freezing-point is, that the exhaustion follows on peripheral nervous shock, due to the cold, and quick succeeding exhaustion of the nervous centres. Thus the temperature of the brain was reduced to fifty-six degrees F., in an animal drowned in freezing water, while the temperature of the chest and abdomen was at seventy-nine degrees Fahr. Death from drowning under ice, in Dr. Richardson's states, one of the most rapid of deaths, and is completed, he believes, with so quick an extinction of consciousness as to be actually painless. The heart retains its power of action, the blood remains fluid, and the muscles keep up their irritability for a long time after apparent dissolution; and so favorable are all the conditions for renewal of living action, even for two hours, that a considerable advance in the practice of resuscitation must follow upon further careful and laborious experimental research.—*Lancet.*

**REFORMS IN DRESS.**—One of the most interesting circumstances in connection with the present eventful winter is the appearance of several persons in the streets in long great-coats extending from the neck to the heels, and giving the wearer the appearance of what are generally known among children as "Noah's Ark men." These garments are perhaps more comfortable than picturesque; but they are interesting to behold, inasmuch as they are a symptom of courage in respect of dress which leads to the hope that a mighty revolution is at hand, productive of convenience to all mankind. A man who is brave enough to walk down Regent-street enveloped in a wrapper so long, so ample, that spectators are obliged to trust to his honour that he has any clothes beneath it, surely would not be afraid to discard the

uncomfortable hat which has so long interfered with human happiness, and wear in its stead a wideawake or "billycock." No man will be so deserving of admiration as he who first has the courage to "throw his hat in the ring," and fight with the prejudices which exist in favour of this uncomfortable appendage. When the hat is fairly gone, probably the trousers will follow, and knickerbockers and gaiters, or some other coverings more fitted than trousers for muddy streets, will take their place. A great revolution is also urgently required in what is called "evening dress," for both men and women. Some costume, perhaps, will one day be discovered enabling the wearer to be independent of oaks and carriages. Society will really never be comfortable until people can walk to it. Ladies ought to be able to walk to their balls and parties through orderly streets clothed in long wrappers something like those which have covered the divine form of man this winter, wearing overshoes, and, if need be, carrying umbrellas over their heads. If Her Majesty would hold one drawing-room, to which everybody was requested to walk in decent clothing, not only would the street traffic be wonderfully relieved, but a great boon would be bestowed on society in general. Nor would the great dressmaking interests suffer in any way.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

**NOTICE.**—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

### Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

#### BIRTH.

MILLARD.—Jan. 12, at Huntingdon, the wife of the Rev. J. H. Millard, B.A., of a daughter, who died the same day.

#### BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Jan. 11.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued	£36,445,930
Government Debt	£11,015,100
Other Securities	£3,981,900
Gold Coin & Bullion	£21,445,930
<b>Total</b>	<b>£72,888,860</b>

SAVING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000
Reserve	£3,267,617
Public Deposits	£3,401,881
Other Deposits	£22,854,912
Seven Day and other	£792,317
<b>Total</b>	<b>£44,869,617</b>

Jan. 12, 1871. GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.**—There can be little safety for sufferers who permit inflammation and ulceration to continue their course in the vain hope of their self amendment, such carelessness will certainly lead to disappointment if it fails to end in death. Whenever disease attacks the human body it should be promptly and vigorously met by remedial measures, of which for external ailments this ointment stands supreme. Bad legs, ulcerations, abscesses, piles, and fistulas, can be conveniently treated and radically removed by this unguent, applied as directed in its accompanying covering. Every mother, nurse, or sick visitor, by the attentive study of Holloway's "Instructions," can frequently arrest outward diseases before they have assailed the constitution and become virulent or chronic.

**PAINS IN THE LIMBS.**—Influenza and Rheumatism, Barclay's (Dr. Bateman's) Pectoral Drops are held in high estimation, curing pains in the limbs and joints, inducing gentle perspiration, and preventing fever. Can be obtained of Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon-street, and all respectable druggists and dealers in patent medicines, in bottles, at 1s. 1d. and 2s. 6d., each. Ask for Barclay's (Dr. Bateman's) Drops, and observe names and address (95, Farringdon-street), affixed to each bottle.

**KINAHAN'S L.C. WHISKY.**—This celebrated and most delicious old malted spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Note the red seal, pink label, and cork brand "Kinahan's L.C. Whisky." New Wholesale Depot, 62, Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-street, W.

### Markets.

**WHEAT.**—The supply of English wheat for this season's market was short, but a change of wind has brought us larger arrivals from America. The condition of English wheat after the break-up of the frost being indifferent, millers were not free buyers and sales proceeded slowly at the rates of Monday last. In foreign wheat little business was doing, and American wheat was 1s. per qr. lower. The flour trade was dull at a reduction of 1s. per sack and 6d. per bri. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were unchanged in value. Barley was steady at last week's prices. Of oats fair arrivals are to hand. We had an inactive trade, and prices were barely supported. At the ports of call few cargoes have been reported.

#### CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qt.		Per Qt.
<b>WHEAT—</b>		<b>PEAS—</b>	
Red and Kent	— to —	Grey	36 to 38
White	49 54	White	41 42
Foreign red	51 56	Boilers	36 40
Foreign white	52 56	Foreign, boilers	38 39
<b>BARLEY—</b>		<b>RYE</b>	36 38
English malted	31 34		
Oatmeal	35 41	<b>OATS—</b>	
Distilling	34 38	English feed	22 23
Foreign	33 35	potato	27 34
<b>MALT—</b>		Scotch feed	—
Pale	—	potato	—
Oatmeal	—	Irish black	19 22
Brown	40 54	white	20 23
<b>BEANS—</b>		Foreign feed	20 23
Black	38 41	<b>FLOUR—</b>	
Harrow	41 45	Town made	44 47
Small	—	Best country held	39 41
Egyptian	38 39	Norfolk & Suffolk	35 37

**WHEAT, London, Saturday, Jan. 14.**—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheat, 40s. per 4lb. loaf 7½d. to 8d. Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

**METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Jan. 16.**—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 2,505 head. In the corresponding week in 1870 we received 4,611; in 1869, 4,604; in 1868, 3,018; and in 1867, 2,510 head. Owing to the mild weather, and to the depression in the dead meat market, the cattle trade has been in a quiet state to-day, but in consequence of the limited supplies offering prices have been maintained. From our own grazing districts the receipts of beasts have been about an average, but the show of foreign has been trifling. The demand for all breeds has been inactive, at about last week's quotations. For the best Scots and crosses 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8lbs. has been obtained. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received about 2,000 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England about 200 various breeds, from Scotland 185 Scots and crosses, and from Ireland about 100 oxen. There has been only a moderate supply of sheep in the market. Sales have progressed slowly, at 2d. per 8lbs. less money. The best Down and half-breds have sold at 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8lbs., the latter quotation being extreme. Calves have been dull at nominal quotations. Hogs have been depressed.

For 8lbs. to sink the O.D.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	5	6 to 4	Prime Struthers	5	10 to 6
Second quality	4	8 to 4	Lamb.	0	0 to 0
Prime large oxen	5	4 to 5	Lga. coarse calves	3	8 to 4
Prime 8c. to 10c.	5	10 to 6	Prime small	0	6 to 4
Coarse inf. sheep	3	4 to 3	Large hogs	4	4 to 3
Second quality	4	2 to 4	Wentons, porkers	5	6 to 4
Pr. coarse woolled	5	0 to 5			

Buttling calves, —s. to —s., and Quarter-old store pigs 25s. to 30s. each.

**METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Jan. 16.**—The market has been well supplied with meat. The trade has been dull, at our quotations. The imports into London last week was confined to 100 packages from Harlingen.

For 8lbs. by the carcass.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Inferior beef	3	4 to 3	Prime ditto	4	8 to 5
Middling ditto	4	0 to 4	Veal	5	0 to 5
Prime large do.	4	8 to 5	Large pork	3	6 to 3
Do. small do.	3	0 to 3	Small pork	4	0 to 4
Inf. mutton	3	4 to 3	Lamb	0	6 to 0
Middling ditto	3	8 to 4			

**PROVISIONS, Monday, Jan. 16.**—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,441 sucking butter and 3,325 hams, and from foreign ports 15,570 packages butter and 49 boxes bacon. Butter met a good sale, at irregular prices, according to qualities; best Dutch 16s. to 18s. The bacon market further declined 2s. per cwt., the severity of the weather having an effect upon consumption; best Waterford sizeable meat 6s. on board.

**COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Jan. 14.**—The frosty weather exercises a marked influence on our market, and the supplies have been limited for the last few days, but still ample for the demand. Good Eggs and apples are plentiful; the former comprise Winter Nails, No. 1 and 2, Jean de Witte, and others. Apples comprise Ribston Pippin, Golden Pippin, Newtown Pippin, Nonpareil, and other varieties. Vegetables comprise Asparagus, Sea-kale, French Beans, and frame potatoes. Amongst flowers we have Orchids, Heaths, Cyclamens, Primulas, Hyacinths, Tulips, Camellias, and Polyanthus, and a large supply of dwarf evergreens.

**BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Jan. 16.**—Our market has assumed an exceedingly firm tone, occasioned by a strong speculative inquiry and a reticence shown by growers to part with their produce. A fair amount of business is passing in all classes of hops, at firm rates, and many choice qualities show an advance of from 6s. to 8s. per cwt. Foreign markets are reported dull. A better demand exists for the finest yearling Americans, which being nearly exhausted command better values; lower grades are neglected. Recent advices from New York report a dull market. Mid and East Kent, 11. 15s., 12. 15s. to 7s. 6d.; West Kent, 11. 15s., 12. 15s. to 8s. 10d.; Sussex, 11. 15s., 12. 15s. to 8s. 10d.; Portland and country, 11. 15s., 12. 15s., to 8s. 15s.; Old Kent, 11. 15s., 12. 15s. to 8s. 10s.

**POTATOES, —BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, —Monday, Jan. 16.**—These markets have been sparingly supplied with potatoes. The trade has been quiet, at about late rates. The import into London last week consisted of 69 barrels from New York. English Regents, 80s. to 10s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 80s. to 100s. per ton; Rocks, 70s. to 80s. per ton.

**SEED, Monday, Jan. 16.**—The supply of English Clover seed was moderate; fine qualities were taken off steadily, at very high prices, and all foreign qualities were quite as dear. Choice trefoil realized full rates, with a moderate demand; very little foreign is offered, the stock of which is much reduced. Best cuttressed was saleable at the extreme price of last week. Hempseed realized as much money. Foreign tares met a moderate sale at the quotations of last week. Large quantities are wanted, for which more money would be paid. There are very few samples of English spring offerings as yet, and these are inquired after. All grass seeds continue to be purchased steadily at full prices.

**WOOL, Monday, Jan. 16.**—Prices of English wool continue firm all round, and a steady tone prevails in the market. There is no tendency towards speculation, the purchases made being for immediate consumption. The demand still runs on choice qualities, good wethers being most in request. Middle hogs have changed hands to a fair extent at late rates. Nulle and broken are also inquired after.

**OIL, Monday, Jan. 16.**—Lined oil has ruled quiet at 30s. on the spot, and 29s. 3d. at Hull. English brown rape firmer. Fish oils unchanged. Turpentine has tended upwards.

**TALLOW, Monday, Jan. 16.**—The market has been steady. Y.O., spot, 45s. 3d. per cwt. Town tallow, 45s. net cash.

**COAL, Monday, Jan. 16.**—Market heavy, at late prices. Goodrich Wallend, 17s.; Hutton, 16s. 6d.; Newell, 16s. 6d.; Hartlepool original, 12s. 6d.; ditto, 17s. 6d.; Kelce South, 17s. 6d.; Holford Main, 17s.; Wylton Main, 17s. 6d. Ship fresh arrived, 42; left from last day, 11; total, 53; above, 26.

### Advertisements.

#### THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT.

CENTRAL NONCONFORMIST COMMITTEE.

88, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

Just published.

#### PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS.

Information and advice may be obtained by applications addressed to the "Secretary," at the office of the Committee.

**MR. STREETER (Successor to**

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**BRACELETS, SIRAP, 18 CARAT £5 0**

**BRACELETS, ETRUSCAN, " £7 0**

**BRACELETS, NINEVEH, " £10 0**

**BRACELETS, SAXON, " £15 0**

**BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, " £2 10**

**BROOCHES, NINEVEH, " £3 0**

**BROOCHES, SAXON, " £4 0**

**BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, " £5 0**

**CHAINS, PRINCESS, " £2 0**

**CHAINS, CYLINDER, " £3 0**

**CHAINS, CURB, " £4 0**

**CHAINS, CABLE, " £5 0**

**EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, " £1 10**

**EARRINGS, SAXON, " £2 5**

**EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, " £3 5**

**EARRINGS, NINEVEH, " £4 10**

**LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, " £1 0**

**LOCKETS, CORDED, " £2 10**

**LOCKETS, CROSS, " £4 0**

**GOLD WATCHES, LADIES, " £8 5**

**GOLD WATCHES, " £10 10**

**GOLD WATCHES, 1-PLATE, £15 15**

**GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11**

**GOLD WATCHES, 1-PLATE, £16 16**

**GOLD WATCHES, " £20 0**

**GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10**

**GOLD WATCHES, " £22 0**

**GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18**

**CLOCKS, JARRIAGE, £5 0**

**CLOCKS, " (STRIKING), £7 7**

**CLOCKS, " (ON GONG), £12 12**

**CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0**

**CLOCKS, " " £10 12**

**CLOCKS, " " £14 0**

**CLOCKS, " (ORMOLD), £10 0**

**CLOCKS, " " £15 0**

**THE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,**

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**WANTED, by a YOUNG LADY, a SITUATION as GOVERNESS;** competent to instruct in English, French, the rudiments of French, Latin, and Drawing. Young Children preferred. Or as Useful Companion to a Lady. Most respectable references.—Address, B. G., Post-office, Rochester.

**MISS FLETCHER, 13, Powis-square, Brighton, RECEIVES a limited number of BOYS,** ages from 8 to 13. A Resident Tutor instructs in Latin and Arithmetic. The year is divided into Three Terms.

**MRS. BAYNES and her SISTERS (the Misses Beard) have REMOVED their School from Denmark Hill to MOUNT VIEW, Greenhill, Hampstead.** Prospectuses forwarded on application. The NEXT TERM commences on JANUARY 30th.

**BAPTIST COLLEGE, PONTYPOOL—**WANTED, a CLASSICAL TUTOR in the room of Mr. Jas. Shilly, M.A., resigned. Salary, £150 per annum. Applications and Testimonials to be in the hands of the President, Rev. Dr. Thomas, at the College, not later than the 31st inst.

**A CONGREGATIONAL MINISTER** Graduate in Honours, resident in the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace, will RECEIVE TWO or THREE PUPILS into his family to prepare for School or College. Reference to E. Miall, Esq., M.P., Rev. R. Bailey, D.D., Rev. S. Newell, M.A.—Address, Rev. E. J., 75, Chesapeake, E.C.

**PELICAN HOUSE, PECKHAM.—Miss FLETCHER** begs to inform her friends that she hopes to RE-ASSEMBLE her PUPILS on the 31st of JANUARY.

**TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—S. C. TITE, CHEMIST, DRUGGIST, and AGRICULTURAL SEEDSMAN, Tottenham, has a VACANCY** for a well-educated Youth as an APPRENTICE.

### NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

Mr. COOKE BAINES, Surveyor and Valuer, begs to INFORM his Friends that he has REMOVED from 100, Chesapeake, to No. 28, FINCHURCH-PLACE, MOORGATE-STREET, E.C., where all future communications are requested to be addressed.

January, 1871.

### BONUS YEAR—SPECIAL NOTICE.

**CLERICAL, MEDICAL, and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.**

ANNUAL INCOME, steadily increasing, £230,355.

ASSURANCE FUND, safely invested, £1,707,769.

The BONUS will be declared in JANUARY, 1872, and all With-Profit Policies in existence on the 30th June, 1871, will participate, so that Persons who complete such Assurance before June 30th next, will share in that Division, although one Premium only will have been paid.

Report and Balance Sheets, Forms of Proposal, and every information, can be obtained of

GEORGE GOSLIP, Actuary and Secretary, 15, St. James's-square, London, S.W.

### LONDON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL-BUILDING SOCIETY.

The TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING of SUBSCRIBERS will be held at the SOCIETY'S OFFICE on TUESDAY, January 24th, at Half-past Four o'clock.

The usual SOCIAL MEETING will take place in the Evening, at the LONDON MISSION HOUSE, HENRY WAGST, Esq., J. R. Thompson, with presiding, and Addresses will be delivered by Rev. Edwin D. Rogers, D.D., and Rev. Joseph Viner, subject—'Chapel-Building—a Comprehensive Work' and Rev. Joseph Viner, subject—'Chapel-Building—a Spiritual Work.' Business will commence at Half past six o'clock.

### ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL,

MAELAND PARK, HAYES, MIDDLESEX, N.W.—For children of both sexes, and from any part of the United Kingdom.

Bankers—London Joint Stock Bank, Princes-street, E.C.

A GENERAL COURT of GOVERNORS will be held on THURSDAY, the 26th January next, at the LONDON TAVERN, Bishopsgate-street Within, to receive the Annual Report and the Auditors' Report, to appoint the General Officers and Auditors for the year ensuing, and to elect TWENTY-FIVE CHILDREN to the benefit of the Charity—viz., Seven Girls and Eighteen Boys. The Child will be taken at Eleven o'clock, and the Roll will be closed at Two o'clock, after which hour no votes can be received.

Contributions are earnestly solicited, as the charity depends upon voluntary support for four-fifths of its annual income.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary, Office, 73, Chesapeake, London, E.C.

### THEOBALDS, CHESHUNT, N.

The Rev. OSWALD JACKSON'S PUPILS RE-ASSEMBLE on FRIDAY, the 27th inst.

### 30, HILLTOP-ROAD, LONDON, N.

LADIES' SCHOOL, conducted by the Misses HEWITT, assisted by superior English and Foreign Masters.

The PUPILS will RE-ASSEMBLE on FRIDAY, January 20th.

Terms and references will be forwarded on application.

### EDUCATION.—HIGHGATE, N.

The PUPILS of the Rev. G. D. BATHURST, M.A., South-gate, Highgate, RE-ASSEMBLE on MONDAY, the 23rd January.

### CONTINENTAL EDUCATION.—

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**SUBSCRIPTION for 15,000 DEFERRED SHARES of £10 each, in 1,500 Certificates of 10 Shares each, equal to £100 Stock each Certificate, of the BEDFORD and NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY, being the balance of the 30,000 Deferred Shares of the Company, 5,000 of such Shares having been appropriated to, and taken up by, Applicants for the Preferred Shares of the Company.**

Price of Issue, £82 10s. per Certificate of £100, equal to 28 5s. per Share, with Interest at 5 per cent. per Annum (yielding to the Investor £8 2s. per cent. per Annum on the price of Subscription, after deducting allowances) during construction, and for five years after the opening of the Railway, pending the declaration within that period by the Midland Railway Company of the option to Amalgamate with or Lease the Line, as referred to herein.

The due and punctual payment of the Interest is absolutely secured for the whole of the above mentioned period by the Investment in Consols, now standing in the names of Trustees, of the amount necessary to pay the same.

**COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF INVESTMENT IN CONSOLS.**

We hereby certify that £65,000 Consols have been invested, and are now standing in our names, for the payment of Interest to the holders of the Deferred Half Shares in the Bedford and Northampton Railway, in accordance with the terms of the Prospectus for the issue of the said Shares.

(Signed) W. C. CURTIS, } Trustees.  
A. RICARDO, }

Dated, London, 11th January, 1871.

Messrs. Barclay Brothers are authorised by Messrs. Edwin Clark, Funchard, and Company, to receive applications for 15,000 Deferred Half Shares of the Bedford and Northampton Railway in 1,500 Certificates of 10 Shares each, being the balance of the 30,000 Deferred Half Shares of the Company, 5,000 of such Shares having been appropriated to, and taken up by, the applicants for the Preferred Shares of the Company.

Interest on the shares, at 5 per cent. per annum, as above referred to, will accrue from the 1st December, 1870, on the full amount of £100 per Certificate (equal to 28 5s. per cent. per annum after deducting discount on prepayment on the amount invested), during the above period, and the option is given of paying the whole of the instalments on allotment or on either of the undermentioned dates, in which case discount will be allowed in addition at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on such prepayments.

The interest will be payable half yearly, on 31st January and 31st July in each year, at the Banking House of Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock and Co., No. 15, Lombard-street, London. The first payment of interest (accruing from 1st December last), will take place on 31st instant.

The price of the shares now offered is £82 10s. for each certificate of 10 shares (equal to £100 stock), and payment will be accepted as follows:—

£10	"	"	"	Allotment.
15	"	"	"	17th Feb., 1871.
30	"	"	"	17th March, "
32 10s.	"	"	"	17th April, "

£82 10s.

Reckoning the accrued interest from 1st December, 1870, and the discount on prepayment of the instalments, the net cost of each certificate is reduced to £81 5s.

By special agreements, incorporated in the Acts of Parliament, the Midland Railway Company is, on completion, to maintain, manage, stock, and work the Bedford and Northampton Railway, and to pay over 50 per cent. of the divisible receipts.

The Midland Railway receipts average £88 per mile per week on the whole of its system of 326 miles, and is constantly increasing year by year, and there is every reason for believing this line will be equal to the average of the Midland system; but taking the traffic at only £50 per mile per week, this would give the Company a net receipt of £26,000 per annum; in which case, after paying the prior charges, there would be a surplus income of £10,050, or upwards of 5 per cent. per annum on the Deferred Half-shares, which will be equal to 26 5s. per cent. p. annum interest, after deducting allowance for prepayment from the price of £82 10s. per £100, at which they are now offered.

It also forms part of the Agreements between the two Companies that the Midland Railway Company shall have the option of amalgamating with or leasing in perpetuity the Bedford and Northampton Railway, provided such option be exercised within five years after the completion and opening of the Line, on condition of the Midland Railway Company paying to the Bedford and Northampton Railway Company a guaranteed perpetual net yearly rent equal to £5 per cent. per annum on their total outlay on capital account.

The Midland Railway Company take over and work the line on its completion, and the contractors, Messrs. Edwin Clark, Funchard, and Co., are under engagement to finish the line by the 31st of August next, and also undertake to pay interest on the Deferred Half-Shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the full £100 per certificate during construction; and as evidence of the confidence which they entertain that the traffic will reach £80 per mile per week, which would yield the shareholders 5 per cent. interest on the full £100 per certificate, they have further agreed to absolutely guarantee the shareholders that rate of interest (equal to 26 5s. per cent. on the net price of subscription) for the whole period reserved to the Midland Railway Company for declaring their option, viz., five years from the opening of the Railway, unless that Company should decide to lease or amalgamate the line at an earlier date, when its guarantee would take effect.

In pursuance of this guarantee, £15,000 Consols—an amount amply sufficient to cover the amount of interest for the whole period—have been invested, and are now standing, in accordance with the before-mentioned certificate, in the joint names of

W. C. Curtis, Esq., 15, Lombard street, London (Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock, and Co., bankers); and A. Ricardo, Esq., Raymead, near Maidenhead (Deputy Chairman) of the Bedford and Northampton Railway), who have consented to act as Trustees for the Deferred Shareholders, and will apply such amount thereof as may be necessary to ensure the punctual payment of the interest above referred to as it falls due.

Provisional Certificates of 10 half shares each will be issued in exchange for the bankers' receipt, to be substituted, when fully paid up, for certificates of the Company, the shares being then transferred into the name of each applicant, free of all stamp duty.

The Share Capital of the Company is £400,000, in 20,000 Shares of £20 each, converted into:—  
Preferred Shares—20,000 half-shares, £10 each, bearing 5 per cent. per annum interest, £200,000  
Deferred Shares—20,000 half-shares, £10 each; the shares now offered for subscription being part thereof, to receive all surplus earnings after 5 per cent. is paid to the Preferred Shares, £200,000  
With the usual borrowing powers, viz.:—£183,000 in debentures or rent charges.

Copies of the Company's Acts of Parliament containing the agreements with the Midland Railway Company, can be seen at the Offices of the Company, also at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Company, and at the Offices of Messrs. Barclay Brothers, 1, Cushman-court, Old Broad-street, E.C.

Applications, accompanied by the payment of £10 for each Certificate applied for, will be received on the form enclosed herewith, which must be filled up and forwarded to Messrs. Roberts and Lubbock, and Co., bankers, No. 15, Lombard-street, London, E.C.; or to the Northamptonshire Union Bank, Northampton; or to Howard Lancaster, Esq., secretary of the Company, 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, London, S.W.; or to Messrs. Barclay Brothers, 1, Cushman-court, Old Broad street, London, E.C., of whom prospectuses may be had.

London, January 13, 1871.

**THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE BEDFORD AND NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY.**  
(Direct line from London to Northampton, via Bedford and the Midland Railway).

**DIRECTORS.**  
Colonel W. B. HIGGINS, Piccadilly, Bedford, Chairman.  
ALBERT RICARDO, Esq., Raymead, near Maidenhead, Deputy Chairman.  
J. Algernon Bastard, Esq., 59, Cadogan-place, S.W.  
Colonel J. Amber-Cole, 116, Pall Mall, S.W.  
Joseph Palmer, Esq., Olney, Bucks.

**ENGINEER.**  
Charles Liddell, Esq., 24, Abingdon-street, Westminster.  
**SOLICITOR.**  
Charles Morgan, Esq., 15, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., London.

**BANKERS.**  
Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock, and Co., No. 15, Lombard-street, London.

The Northamptonshire Union Bank, Northampton.  
**SECRETARY**—Howard Lancaster, Esq.  
Offices—2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W., London.

The Bedford and Northampton Railway—coloured red on the plan accompanying the prospectus—is incorporated under Acts of Parliament of 1865-6-7 and 1870.

The line is twenty miles in length, and is a continuation of the Midland Railway from Bedford to Northampton, thus completing a direct route from London to this important district by the Midland Railway.

The rising importance of Northampton (which contains at present a population of not less than 50,000 inhabitants), its admirable position, and numerous manufactories, have rendered it essential that a new, direct, and rapid communication should exist between that town and the metropolis.

When the Bedford and Northampton Railway is open the Midland Railway Company will be enabled to extend their system direct to Northampton, via Bedford, Turvey, and Olney, instead of by the present circuitous route through Oakley, Sharnbrook, Welbourn, Ashby, and Billing.

The Railway is being constructed as a Double Line, and, in accordance with the clause of the Agreement in Act of Parliament, in all respects equal to the Leicester and Hitchin Railway, which is leased by the Midland Railway Company.

The Shares of the Leicester and Hitchin Railway, with a guarantee by the Midland Railway Company of 4 per cent., are quoted at £92 per £100, which is equal to £115 at 5 per cent.

The price at which the Deferred Half-shares are now offered, viz., £82 10s. per £100—or after accrued interest and discounts for prepayment are deducted, £81 5s. net—affords, on the above basis, a very large margin for increased value, and as such this investment will commend itself to capitalists seeking a secure and improving English security.

London, 12th January, 1871.

The above is abridged from the full prospectus which, with forms of application, may be had of Messrs. Barclay Brothers, 1, Cushman-court, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

**FORM OF APPLICATION.**

To be Retained by the Bankers.

To Messrs. Barclay Brothers, 1, Cushman-court, Old Broad-street, E.C., London.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock, and Co., Bankers, the sum of pounds, being £10 per Certificate on my application for Certificates of 10 Deferred Half-shares of £10 each of the Bedford and Northampton Railway Company, I request you to have transferred to me that or any less number of the said Shares, and I hereby agree to accept such transfer, and to pay the balance in respect of such Shares, according to the terms of the prospectus dated 12th January, 1871.

Name (in full).....  
Address.....  
Profession (if any).....  
Date.....

Signature.....

(Addition to be signed by applicant desiring to pay up the instalments under discount.)

It is my intention to pay up my Subscription in full, on allotment, receiving discount for prepayment of the instalments.

Signature.....

**SUBSCRIPTION for 15,000 DEFERRED SHARES of £10 each of the BEDFORD and NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY.**—Notice is hereby Given, that the LISTS of APPLICATION for the above will be closed on Friday, the 30th for London, and on Saturday next, the 31st instant, for country applications.

BARCLAY BROTHERS.

1, Cushman court, Old Broad-street, London, Jan. 16, 1871.

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  - III. Count Bismarck, Prussia, and Pan-Teutonium.
  - IV. Revenues of India.
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